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Libby Purves on why politicians' partners should not become props, page 17



20p

THE TIMES

No. 65,171

MONDAY JANUARY 23 1995

Israeli President says stop negotiating after bomber's attack on bus station

Calls to end peace talks as 19 die

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EZER WEIZMAN, the president of Israel, last night dramatically called for an immediate halt to peace negotiations with the Palestinians after one of the worst Islamic suicide attacks inside the Jewish States killed at least 19 people and wounded more than 60, 14 of them seriously.

Most of the victims were young soldiers returning from weekend leave. The attack was

transport into the occupied West Bank then ran towards the bar to help the wounded. "Shortly after that there was another explosion," Kobi Marciano, who was at the scene, said.

Islamic Jihad, one of two militant Islamic groups based in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip, said that two of its suicide bombers carried out the attack. Assaf Hefetz, the chief of police, said the body of one guerrilla had been recovered.

Mr Weizman issued his call after visiting the wounded at one of three hospitals put on emergency footing. "We call it a peace process which we hope to achieve; right now it is a bloody process, and with bloody processes you do not achieve peace," the president said. "I would stop the process now for some time — I would not say for how long — and rethink. Things cannot go on like this."

Mr Weizman later attended an emergency Cabinet meeting to review the security crisis. Last night the Israeli government decided to seal off the West Bank and Gaza Strip until further notice, officials said.

doubly deadly because a second blast at a bus station was detonated ten minutes after the first a few metres away at a hitchhiking station, causing mayhem among the many people who had rushed to attend the wounded from the first attack.

Israeli security officials said that a snack bar near where the bombs were planted was blown apart by the first explosion. Soldiers waiting for



Israeli soldiers who were caught up in the blast weeping outside a hospital after helping to carry wounded colleagues inside for treatment

though it had no executive backing carried great moral weight. Mr Weizman is a popular president, and was formerly one of the country's leading doves.

At the scene of the attack, which left pools of blood and dismembered limbs strewn over a wide area, survivors turned their fury on the Government. Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, who flew to the spot by helicopter, was attacked as a "traitor" and called on to end the talks. One group of hecklers at the site two miles from the peaceful resort of Netanya accused the

Nobel Prize-winner of having "Arab blood".

Amid the chants of "Death to the Arabs", black-coated ultra-orthodox Jews — for whom each part of the body is sacred and must be buried — collected human remains. "I saw bodies in the air, people running to help. But I could not move, I was in shock, hearing terrible screams," Esther Halouf, a teenage soldier being treated for her injuries, said.

"I was for the peace process, but not if there are going to be attacks such as this every few days. Yehzekel Nissim who

missed the explosion by a few seconds, said. Others went further. Abner Shaul, a diamond cutter, said: "We have to throw these Arabs out of here — only the [hardline Israeli] Likud Party can help us now."

The attack coincided with ceremonies to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. It came hours before the largest gathering of survivors of the camp assembled in Jerusalem to inscribe their names and tattooed numbers in a register. The news of the bombing sent

bigger shock waves through the country than the many similar atrocities that have claimed at least 109 Jewish lives since peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed 16 months ago. Almost 200 Palestinians have also been killed.

The claim that the guerrillas came from Gaza brought more public pressure on Mr Rabin to rethink the peace process with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chief, who is responsible for security in Gaza.

Mr Arafat, who like Rabin has staked his political life on the self-rule accord, con-

demned the attack by the "enemies of peace".

Government ministers were divided over whether the talks should be halted. Among those who rejected the idea was Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister. "Clearly this is a further strain on the peace process," he said, "but this is not a reason to stop it." Members of Mr Rabin's Labour party voiced doubts about the negotiations although they stopped short of calling for them to be suspended.

Death camp survivors, page 6
Call for revenge, page 10

Stagg is arrested after 'axe attack' on common

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

COLIN STAGG, who was last year cleared of murdering Rachel Nickell, was arrested yesterday on Wimbledon Common, southwest London, after being accused of threatening another man and his son with an axe.

Stagg was arrested with a 26-year-old woman after a complaint that a man had brandished the weapon at a 30-year-old man and his son aged 11.

Police were called by rangers on the common at 9.12 am after an incident, said to have followed a disagreement between dogs being walked. Scotland Yard said "There was no apparent motive for the assault."

Stagg and the woman were taken for questioning. Police divers searched the Queen's Mere in vain for the axe.

The complainant left the police station with his son in



Stagg questioned

the afternoon after apparently making a witness statement. He appeared agitated.

Mr Stagg, 31, was charged with murdering Nickell, but the case was aborted last year on the orders of an Old Bailey judge. Police and the Crown Prosecution Service were criticised for using a policewoman posing as a lonely hearts correspondent to lure Mr Stagg into confessing.

Storms bring roads havoc

Snow showers, heavy rain and gales caused flooding and traffic jams yesterday, with forecasters predicting more of the same today. Scores of sports events were cancelled. Flooding closed roads in Somerset, and in Scotland and Cumbria deep snow meant that even major routes were passable only with care. Page 22

Cantona heads United winner

Eric Cantona was again Manchester United's hero when his splendid header gave United a 1-0 win over Blackburn Rovers at Old Trafford yesterday, cutting Rovers' Premiership lead to two points. Page 23

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Blair puts his leadership on the line over Clause 4

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair clashed with trade union leaders yesterday as he warned that Labour could remain in the political wilderness unless the party ditched its commitment to nationalisation.

The Labour leader refused a demand by Bill Morris, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to pledge that a Labour government would bring water back under public control.

Effectively staking his own position on the success of his attempts to rewrite Clause 4, Mr Blair said that the party had to redefine its identity if it was to win the next election. Social justice must replace public ownership as the cornerstone of Labour's constitution, he said. "It is a choice of

destiny for this party," he told BBC TV's *On the Record*. "We either become that vibrant left-of-centre party, looking forward and addressing the real needs of this country, or we will remain where we have been for 15 years — essentially a pressure group exerting influence on a Conservative Government but not governing ourselves."

Mr Morris used the water issue to raise the stakes over Clause 4 on the eve of Mr Blair's national campaign to persuade party members and trade unionists to back him. The move coincided with warnings by left-wingers that Mr Blair faced a grass roots rebellion over his attempt to tear up the party's nationalisation clause. Mr Morris demanded that the rewritten

clause should give a strong commitment to public ownership and be accompanied by a separate policy document stating which industries should be brought back into public control.

"We want a clear commitment to public ownership. Unless it is clear and unambiguous, then it will not command the support of my union."

"So far in the debate I have heard nothing, read nothing, seen nothing, which could remotely meet our minimum requirements," he said. He made clear that this should include both the renationalisation of public services.

Continued on page 2, col 4
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Inspectors attack primary schools

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY schools are being exposed as the education system's weakest link by the Government's new inspection regime.

The finding that England's 19,000 primaries are much more likely than secondaries to be officially judged as "failing" will provide ammunition for Her Majesty's Chief Inspector when he launches a crusade this week against the dominance of progressive teaching methods.

Chris Woodhead will use the first annual lecture of the Office for Standards in Education on Thursday to question the "unchallenged and untested" orthodoxies that prevail in thousands of primary schools.

Mr Woodhead, who took the job last September, will argue that teachers, oppressed by eight years of sweeping

Conservative education reforms, sought refuge in child-centred teaching methods pioneered in the 1960s. He will assert that the prevailing professional culture must become more open to alternatives if reforms such as the new national curriculum and regular testing are to work.

He is anxious that too many primary teachers dismiss traditional teaching methods and refuse to question current practice. He will call for more lessons to be given to whole classes, instead of leaving different groups in the same class to work at their own speed and often on different subjects.

Mr Woodhead will appeal to teachers to become more in-

Continued on page 2, col 6
Education, pages 37-38

Four Weddings and an uncool trip to heaven

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUGH GRANT, Britain's best hope for an Oscar nomination next month, threw typical English reserve to the winds this weekend when he picked up a Golden Globe award for his role as a reluctant bridegroom in the hit British film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Accepting the prize for the best comedy actor at a ceremony in Hollywood on Saturday, Grant gushed: "It's tragic how much I'm enjoying this, virtually uncool. You're supposed to think awards are invidious but this is heaven."

He also paid tribute to Elizabeth Hurley, his girlfriend, who has attracted as much media attention for not being in the film as he has for being in it. Hurley, whose own film credits include *Beyond Bedlam*, became a media icon last year after arriving at the premiere of *Four*

Weddings wearing "that dress" — a plunging Versace creation.

"I would like to thank my girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley, who put up with easily the nastiest, most ill-tempered prima donna-ish actor in English cinema for six weeks and then came back to me, which was really nice," Grant told an audience of Hollywood celebrities.

His Golden Globe, conferred by the influential Hollywood Foreign Press Association, will greatly boost the actor's chances of winning an Oscar nomination. Competition for this year's Academy Awards will be fierce with nominations expected for John Travolta for his performance in *Pulp Fiction* and Tom Hanks for his role in *Forrest Gump*.

Co-starring the American actress Andie MacDowell and made on a tiny

budget of £4 million, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* is the most successful British film ever. It has taken an estimated £130 million at the box office worldwide, and nearly £30 million in Britain. The record had been held by *A Fish Called Wanda*, which took £41 million worldwide.

The film, which charts a group of wealthy English friends' search for marital bliss, opened in the United States last March to widespread critical acclaim. Its rapturous American reception guaranteed its success in Britain. Written by Richard Curtis, creator of the *Blackadder* television scripts, the film was backed by Channel 4 and Polygram, the Dutch entertainment company.

Channel 4 expects to make a return of at



Grant receives his award at the Golden Globe ceremony last Saturday

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Chancellor would welcome back rebels 'to support Prime Minister and Government'

Clarke declares unity with Major over Europe



Clarke: views on Europe "nearer Kohl than Tebbit"

KENNETH CLARKE fuelled Cabinet tensions over Europe yesterday by supporting a single currency, rejecting a referendum and arguing that Britain should work with France and Germany to shape the European Union.

In a strongly pro-European interview, the Chancellor told the present Cabinet line that the rebels should be cajoled back rather than reprimanded. However, speaking on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost*, he made clear that they should be prepared to vote with the Government on most issues, despite their own personal views on Europe.

"I obviously want these colleagues of mine to come back on board. But when you come back on board in a political party you can have the occasional rebellion but by and large you are a member of the Conservative Parliamentary Party in order to support the

■ The Chancellor annoyed the whipless Tory MPs when he said on television that his views on Europe were 'indistinguishable' from those of the Prime Minister. Jill Sherman reports

Conservative Prime Minister and the Government."

Mr Clarke annoyed the rebels by his claims that his views on Europe were "indistinguishable" from those of John Major. Over the last few weeks the rebels have been heartened by what they claim is a more Euro-sceptic approach from the Prime Minister.

Yesterday Mr Clarke denied that he was a Euro-sceptic, said his views were much nearer those held by Chancellor Kohl of Germany than Norman Tebbit, and said he would support a single currency if the conditions were right. He

dismissed any suggestion that he was at odds with the Prime Minister.

"I think John's views on Europe are indistinguishable from mine. We work very closely. I have always felt we have an exactly similar approach to Europe," he said.

Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the eight whipless rebels who published their own manifesto on Europe last week, welcomed Mr Clarke's conciliatory comments but claimed his views on Europe were unacceptable to the rebels and out of line with those expressed by Mr Major.

"Like all ministers he is very kind, but his views on monetary union and closer integration are a bit out of touch with those of ordinary voters and those within the Conservative party," Sir Teddy said.

The Chancellor's comments followed reports that Mr Major had turned his back on his "inner cabinet" and promised to consult all members of the Cabinet over EC policy. Although cabinet sources have played down any talk of a rift between Mr Clarke and Mr Major, some rightwingers are concerned about Mr Clarke's role in the inner cabinet's decision to make the Commons vote on a higher payments to the EC an issue of confidence last November.

The inner core of ministers includes Douglas Hurd, Mr Clarke, Malcolm Rifkind, Michael Howard, Michael Heseltine and Tony Newton. It excludes however

the Cabinet's most Euro-sceptic ministers: Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary, has made the most conciliatory noises to the rebels to encourage them back into the fold.

Michael Portillo, the Euro-sceptic Employment Secretary, yesterday said it would be the most "natural thing in the world for the rebels to take whip again and I hope that will happen before too long".

Speaking on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, he said the Prime Minister had laid the groundwork for reconciliation by pledging to block any moves towards political union by the inter-governmental conference in 1996 and ruling out monetary union in 1997.

"There is nothing that the Prime Minister has said about his approach over the coming years with

which these people could disagree. The Prime Minister has set out a programme on which these people could be content and therefore I believe he has laid the basis for reunification."

John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday provoked protests from environmentalists over proposals to contract out the protection of the countryside, including Snowdon, to private hands. Labour accused Mr Redwood of conducting a "dangerous experiment" with the national heritage of Wales and launched a campaign to keep Snowdonia and 50 other nature reserves under public control.

A spokesman for the Welsh Office confirmed that there had been a review of the Countryside Council for Wales's activities. Mr Redwood has been accused of putting pressure on it to make spending cuts.

Saboteurs who stoned pub seen at port protest

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MASKED hunt saboteurs who stoned a pub at the weekend when the landlady refused to serve drinks to a group of men from a white van. She said the attack later that evening had been terrifying and she narrowly escaped injuries from flying glass.

"I was shaking with fear," she said. "Every window in the front went except my lounge, where I was sitting. If that had not had double glazing, which did not break, my face could have been cut to pieces. My barmaid came in screaming with a blanket over her head and her clothes covered in broken glass."

Mrs Monte, 68, added: "We refused to serve the saboteurs and they must have decided to come back after dark when we were closed. Our barman saw the same van that had been around when the hunt met. There is no-one else who would have a grudge." The pub reopened yesterday.

The hunt master's wife, Mrs Jan Hill, said: "This marks a frightening escalation in the activities of the saboteurs. The place was apparently targeted because some people in the pub had been with the hunt."

□ A dead calf with its throat cut was dumped at the home of a leading animal welfare campaigner yesterday near Llandysul, Dyfed.



Forty-eight caravans on two sites in Tywyn, Mid Wales, were wrecked by a whirlwind at the weekend

Rain and high winds wreak havoc

SNOW showers, heavy rain and gales caused flooding and traffic jams yesterday with forecasters predicting more of the same today. Scores of sports events were cancelled (Marianne Curphey writes).

Flooding closed roads in Somerset, while in Scotland and Cumbria deep snow made even major routes passable only with care. High winds closed a number of bridges to high-sided vehicles, caravans and motorcyclists, and police shut the Severn Bridge for three hours while engineers removed a lorry which had

been blown over. The driver was unhurt. Traffic backed up for ten miles on the M4 and thousands of vehicles had to take a 100-mile detour through the Forest of Dean.

A whirlwind wrecked 48 caravans on two sites on the Welsh coast at Tywyn on Saturday afternoon. The caravans were torn from their anchorages and damage is expected to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. None of the caravans was occupied and no one was hurt.

On Saturday, five Premier League football matches were

called off because of water-logged pitches. Racing at Newton Abbot today and at Leicester tomorrow has been cancelled, and Lingfield may not go ahead. Over half rugby club fixtures were cancelled and four were abandoned.

In Tipton, West Midlands, 100 people were evacuated from their homes after gale force winds ripped the roofs off three blocks of maisonettes.

The London Weather Centre said that it would feel very cold today, with temperatures unlikely to reach more than 7C in the north and 8C in

the south, and strong winds, gale force around the coast. More rain is forecast.

Skiers braved blizzards and high winds in Scotland but gusting winds of up to 80mph closed all ski-runs at Aonach Mor, Cairngorm Glencoe. Almost 700 skiers turned out at Glenshee where the four most sheltered lifts stayed open in winds of about 30mph.

In Somerset, two 23-year-old men were killed when their car crashed in heavy rain at Staple Fitzpaine.

Forecast, page 22

Lawyers to act over royal housekeeper

Lawyers are expected to take action after another royal servant's claims about the private lives of the Prince and Princess of Wales appeared in a newspaper yesterday. Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the revelations by Wendy Berry, the Prince's housekeeper at his Highgrove home for nine years, but it is thought that an injunction banning further revelations, either by newspapers or a planned book, will be sought in the High Court as soon as possible.

The Prince's solicitor obtained an injunction against his valet Ken Stronach on Friday after claims about the Prince and Camilla Parker Bowles appeared last weekend.

Politics bores the young

Nearly half of Britain's younger generation has little or no interest in politics and a third sees no reason ever to become interested, according to a survey of young people's attitudes. The poll, commissioned by BBC Radio 1, shows that 47 per cent of 15 to 35-year-olds claim to be "not very" or "not at all" interested, found politicians untrustworthy and felt helpless to change things.

CSA faces shake-up

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, will today announce a shake-up of the Child Support Agency including a scheme to give mothers on benefit some of the money secured from absent partners, if they find a job. Plans in a White Paper include a right of appeal against assessments and greater account to be taken of clean-break settlements, second families and travel to work costs.

Murder hunt plea

Police hunting the killer of the Cardiff schoolgirl Claire Hood, right, have appealed to an anonymous telephone caller who may have vital clues to contact them again. The plea came as the girl's heavily-sedated mother, Pam Bennett, issued a statement through the police calling on anyone who may be protecting the killer to turn him in.



Postal strike ends

The Royal Mail will try to clear a backlog of around 15 million letters today after postal workers in northwest London last night called off their dispute over a new computer system. Sealed pillar boxes will be reopened and services should be back to normal by the end of the week. The dispute led to sympathy strikes by 13,000 workers around the capital on Friday.

TV companies criticised

A group of leading charities, including Save the Children, Oxfam and Christian Aid, has criticised the BBC and ITV for cutting back their coverage of international affairs. The Third World and Environment Broadcasting Project claims that the broadcasters have reduced their output on international affairs by 40 per cent in five years.

Patient's body found

The partially decomposed body of a patient who went missing at St Thomas's Hospital, London, before Christmas has been found under piping, hospital officials confirmed yesterday. Carlos Padilla, 40, disappeared after a major operation on December 20 wearing only his dressing gown. His death is not believed to be suspicious.

Brighton venue of bliss

Brighton Pavilion's luxurious Red Drawing Room, famed for its dragon wallpaper and Chinese oil paintings, is likely to become a venue for weddings. Leisure promoters have applied for a licence under the Marriage Act, which comes into force in April, allowing civil weddings to take place in buildings other than register offices.

Slater rape disclosure



Stephanie Slater, left, the estate agent kidnapped and imprisoned in a coffin by convicted murderer Michael Sams, has said she was raped by him while handcuffed and blindfold. Miss Slater, who describes the rape in a new book, *Beyond Fear*, says she hid the details because she feared the truth would devastate her family and friends.

Black pudding flies high

Black pudding is to be served on Concorde for the first time this week. British Airways announced yesterday. The delicacy is being supplied by a Scottish family butcher, Grants of Dornoch in the Highlands, which had gone into receivership when the pudding was tasted by a BA chef on holiday in the area. He ordered 700lbs for passengers.

Labour clash

Continued from page 1
ation of the water industry and Britain's railways if they were privatised. He hinted, however, that he would be satisfied with greater regulation for the other privatised utilities, such as gas and electricity.

Mr Blair said he was utterly opposed to the privatisation of water, electricity and rail, but that the party had to be realistic about what could be done to reverse them.

"I think it would be utterly folly to spend billions of pounds on renationalising the water industry," he said. "He also admitted that full renationalisation of the railways might not be possible if the Government had already privatised large chunks of British Rail. "We are not in the business of spraying around guarantees and commitments until we have seen exactly what the Government has done," he said. "The centrepiece of the new Clause 4 should be our basic belief in the values that underpin Labour, which are not values about public ownership, but to do with the nature of society."

Mr Blair admitted tacitly that he was putting his leadership on the line over the issue. "You don't embark on a change as serious as this unless you are really aware of the consequences," he said. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, gave his full backing to Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, will be another powerful ally. But left-wingers moved quickly to defend a commitment which they see as fundamental to socialist principles.

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Primaries attacked

Continued from page 1
tellectually rigorous in assessing the effectiveness of different teaching techniques, rather than demanding the wholesale and immediate adoption of traditional methods. But he is convinced that primary schools need to use more specialist-subject teachers. He is also concerned that teachers can rely too heavily on asking pupils questions and praising them, when instruction and feedback would achieve more.

The chief inspector is expected to emphasise the urgent need for improvement in a fortnightly annual report next week. Inspectors concluded last year that a third of state-school pupils aged eight to 11 achieved less than they could, mainly because lessons were insufficiently challenging.

The first round of primary inspections under the new freelance system, which ensures that each school is reported on every four years, has revealed further problems, according to figures seen by *The Times*. Since primary inspections began last year, at least 11 of the 778 schools visited have been found to be failing their pupils.

The figure is likely to rise because some schools said by the freelance inspectors to require "special measures" have yet to have the verdict officially confirmed by a second team. Of six schools named as failing, three are in London with the others in Humberside, Walsall and Nottingham.

The primary failure rate compares badly with secondary schools where, after more than 1,200 inspections, only 12 schools have been found to require intervention.

Education, pages 37-38



Peel: song's inspiration

John Peel's horn goes back to fells

By ROBIN YOUNG

JOHN PEEL'S hunting horn is to return home to Cumbria. The single loop copper horn used by the Lakeland huntsman who inspired the song *Dye Ken John Peel* has been in America since 1951, when it was bought by a New York antique dealer for £5,500.

The horn's present owner, Holly Houghton, a former master of the Aiken Foxhounds in South Carolina, has decided that the horn should be returned to Cumbria, where Peel, a native of Caldbeck, lived from 1776 to 1854.

The horn, which is accompanied by a handwritten letter of authentication, signed by John Peel's eldest son John, in 1886, will be presented by Mrs Houghton to the Blencathra Foxhounds, based at Thralkald near Keswick. The Blencathra hounds are known as the John Peel pack since their owner bought many of Peel's dogs after his death.

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Colleague survives with broken ribs

Avalanche sweeps mountaineer 700ft to his death

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

MOUNTAIN rescue teams battled through the night in appalling weather yesterday to save an injured climber who had been swept 700 feet down a Scottish mountain by an avalanche that killed his colleague.

Almost 40 military and civilian rescuers combined in the eight-hour operation to rescue Graham Frost, 24, one of six climbers who set out in apparently good conditions to climb a 3,450 foot peak in northern Scotland. The weather closed in so quickly that an RAF helicopter was unable to pick him up as he huddled in his survival bag and rescuers had to reach him on foot. He was taken to hospital in Inverness suffering from severe bruising to his chest and ribs. Michael Clark, a student from Anglesey, is believed to have died instantly in the fall.

Members of the Torridon Mountain Rescue Team climbed for 2½ hours through deep snow to reach the men and a further 5½ to carry them down to a waiting ambulance. The alarm was raised just after 8pm on Saturday night by two members of the expedition up the north side of Liathach mountain in Wester Ross. They had walked three miles to their car and then driven three miles to a telephone box. He called police based at Dingwall, Highland. Two others had stayed with Mr Clark and Mr Frost.

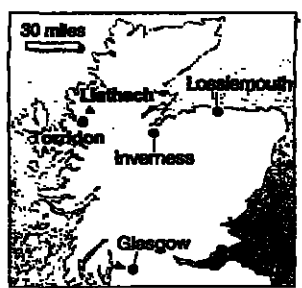
An RAF search and rescue Sea King helicopter was launched from RAF Lossiemouth and the Torridon Mountain Rescue Team was alerted. A mountain rescue team from RAF Kinloss, which was on a training exercise in the area, joined them.

The helicopter took two hours to reach the mountain but was unable to land because of strong winds and poor visibility. A spokesman for the RAF co-ordination centre in Fife said: "The heli-

copter was of limited use because of the weather conditions. There was snow, thick cloud, strong winds, hill fog and severe low level turbulence." The helicopter was eventually grounded and the rescue crew were forced to spend the night locally before flying back to base on Sunday morning.

Thirty-nine rescuers continued up the mountain on foot. They found the dead and injured men and the other two members of the team in a quarry near the summit on the north side of the mountain which is popular with snow and ice climbers in winter.

Seamus McNally, leader of the Torridon Rescue Team, said the climbers were very cold but in reasonable condi-



tion. He added that even if the helicopter had been able to get through, the man who died could not have been saved. It took rescuers nearly six hours to get the men off the hills. "The snow conditions were across were not too bad but it was wet snow which made it heavy going and the weight of the stretchers made the return journey a bit longer," Mr McNally said.

He said Mr Frost suffered rib and chest injuries and had a black eye. "Other than that he was not too bad. He was very lucky." Conditions for ice climbing in the area at the time the team set out were good, Mr McNally said.

"When we got up there were no problems. We were not worried about the conditions we came across. Had the

group decided to go only so far and abseil back down I think they would have been fine. But obviously they wanted to make it to the top and that was where they became unstuck."

Cameron Macleay, 55, a mountain guide and the Torridon team's training officer, said: "We gave first aid and were joined by 15 from the RAF Kinloss team who had been on exercise in Lochcarron. Unfortunately it was too late for one of the casualties."

Mr Macleay said that three parties of two had completed the "extremely difficult" ice climb route on Liathach. "They were very well equipped and obviously experienced. They would not have completed that route otherwise."

The other members of the expedition team, thought to be in their twenties, spent the night at the Torridon Youth Hostel and were making their way home yesterday. The death of Mr Clark is the third on Scottish hills this year but it is the first mountaineering accident. The other two deaths were from medical conditions. One man suffered a heart attack and the other died during an epileptic fit.

Last year was one of the safest years for mountaineers in Scotland. There were 28 deaths, including heart attacks and suicides. In 1993, the worst year on record, 62 people died on the hills.

Alf Ingram, of the Mountain Rescue Committee for Scotland, said the figures were improving. "In 1983 there were more than 40 deaths but since then the number of people using the hills has increased by over 40 per cent. The number of accidents per man-hour on the hills has actually fallen quite dramatically."

Two of the last three fatalities on the 3,456ft hill in the last few years have been as a result of avalanches. A police report about the tragedy is being sent to the Dingwall procurator fiscal.



Derek Meddings, above, a special effects supervisor, recreates Siberia for Pierce Brosnan and the latest Bond girl, Izabella Scorupco

Bond makes no secret of the service from Watford

By Dalva Alberge, Arts Correspondent

FROM Watford With Love may lack the glamour of some of 007's more customary locations, but yesterday's mission for the world's favourite spy was to reveal how a former factory in Hertfordshire has become an impressive film set.

James Bond's 17th action adventure, *Goldeneye*, is billed as the most ambitious production to date of the 007 series. Sixty per cent of the \$32 million film is being shot in a cavernous former Rolls-Royce factory spanning 1.25 million square feet, in which the wartime Mosquito bomber was designed, because the country's other studios are fully booked.

As many as 25 different sets, ranging from an underground radar tracking centre

to buildings in St Petersburg, will be built and, as this is Bond, blown up.

Yesterday, remote-control model helicopters were flying over a craggy Siberian landscape made of polystyrene, self-raising flour and cat litter. Photographs the size of cinema screens completed the illusion. But filmgoers will not be able to see the join when the film is released in time for the Christmas audiences in December.

Pierce Brosnan is the good-looking Irish actor who takes the lead. A more politically correct Bond for the 1990s is promised although, even with the script, remaining top secret, no one expects the romantic hero to have to make the beds as well as lie in them. "He does not smoke."

for example," said a spokesman. Brosnan was already in character, well-tailored and sipping champagne. Facing an army of 300 reporters, he seemed frustrated to be asked about how Bond has been updated. Stopping out of character, he said of the question: "It's boring."

Bond's leading lady, Natalya, is played by a Polish-born actress, Izabella Scorupco. 24. *Goldeneye* is her English-speaking debut and she has previously appeared only in Swedish films.

The film also stars the Scottish actor Robbie Coltrane, who plays a KGB controller turned ruthless Russian arms dealer.

Goldeneye awards, page 1



Harvey Smith arrested after three die in horsebox crash

By Paul Wilkinson

A BOY aged seven was critically ill last night with injuries suffered in a road crash that killed his father and two other people and involved Harvey Smith, the former international showjumper.

Daniel Larvin saw his father Ernie crushed to death beside him in the back seat of a car that collided with the rear of Mr Smith's horsebox. Fire crews called to the scene to cut out the victims did not initially know he was inside the wreckage and it was several minutes after the last body was released that they discovered him under a seat. Last night he was in a critical condition with head injuries in Leeds General Infirmary.

Friends say he was saved from instant death by another passenger, Andrew Fulcher, who threw himself across Daniel seconds before the impact. Mr Fulcher, 17, escaped with only a cut finger, but the driver and his front-seat passenger died instantly.

After the accident on Saturday evening police arrested Mr Smith on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. A breathalyser test proved negative and after five hours of questioning he was released on bail without charge. He was ordered to

return in four weeks. Yesterday Mr Smith, 56, was at his training yard at High Eldwick near Bingley, West Yorkshire. He declined to comment.

Police said the accident happened as Mr Smith drove his horsebox from a slip-road off the A59 York to Harrogate road near Allerton Park in North Yorkshire. It was hit from behind by a Ford Escort travelling on the A59.

The car was taking members of a village soccer team home after their match had been called off. Daniel had

gone to watch with his father, 36, the team skipper who is a caretaker at a school four miles from the crash scene in Knaresborough. Mr Smith had been returning with two horses from Catterick races.

Police named the other two victims yesterday as the driver Andy Gowland, 30, who lived with his brother in Seacroft, Leeds, and Gary Hayton, 30, a sports centre manager who lived with his girlfriend at Garforth near Leeds.

At his home in Knaresborough, Mr Fulcher said "I knew something was

going to happen when I saw this huge wagon right across the road in front of us. I dived on to the little kid to try and save him. Looking after Danny was all I could think of. Suddenly there was a terrific smash and I seemed to wake up sitting upright in the car with all this wreckage and bodies all around me. I didn't really want to look. I was all right, just helpless and dazed. Somehow I managed to open the rear door and jump out of the car."

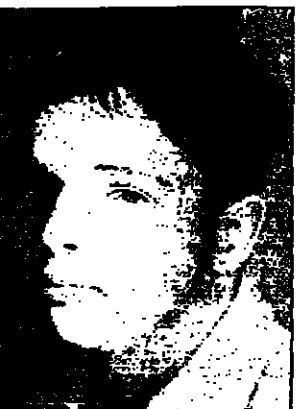
"I rolled down an embankment and wandered around not knowing where I was. It was a miracle I escaped with only a cut finger. I didn't know what had happened to Danny. I must be the luckiest man alive."

He said driving conditions were bad because of heavy rain and strong winds. He did not believe their car was travelling very fast. The group was returning home after playing for Hamerton United, the team from the village of Kirk Hamerton four miles from the crash scene. Their match had been abandoned at half-time because of the weather.

Inquests on the dead men are expected to be opened today.



A breath test on Smith, left, proved negative. Right: Andrew Fulcher, who tried to save a child's life



Four Weddings and a trip to heaven

Continued from page 1
least £4 million from its £400,000 investment. *Four Weddings* won the best film award last year at the Writer's Film Guild of Great Britain awards and is tipped for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award.

Miranda Richardson won the best supporting actress Golden Globe for her performance in *Fatherland*, the television film based on the book by Robert Harris. *Forrest Gump* took the award for the best film of 1994, with Tom Hanks receiving best actor prize for his eponymous hero and Robert Zemeckis being named best director. Jessica Lange was named best actress for her role in *Blue Sky*. Walt Disney's *The Lion King* took awards for the best musical or comedy film, the best original score and the best original song.

□ Toby Stephens, the son of Sir Robert Stephens and Dame Maggie Smith, was

last night named the most promising newcomer in the Shakespeare Globe Awards. Stephens won the Richard Burton Award for his performance in the lead role of *Coriolanus*. The actor has also appeared in *The Canon* and *The Bridge*, by Arthur Miller.

At the awards ceremony, at the Savoy in London, Stephen Dillane won the Sir John Gielgud Award for best actor for his performance of Hamlet at the Gielgud Theatre. Dillane, whose television credits include *You, Me and It*, *The Rector's Wife* and *Soldier Soldier*, also appeared in the Franco Zeffirelli film version of *Hamlet*.

It was the third annual Shakespeare Globe Awards and the first since the death of Sam Wanamaker, the American actor and director who founded them. His daughter Zoe Wanamaker presented the Sam Wanamaker Award

for the most outstanding contribution to Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre to Leon Garfield for *The Animated Tales of Shakespeare*. Garfield's first book, *Jack Holborn*, was published in 1964 and he has won many awards for his novels since then, including a Whitbread award for *John Diamond*.

Barrie Rutter, who has appeared in *Porridge*, *Minder*, *Casualty* and *The Bill*, as well as many classical stage roles, won the Sir Tyrone Guthrie award for his production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Northern Broadsides.

The Peter Brook award for best director went to Peter Zadek for *Anthony and Cleopatra*, which won a critics' award at last year's Edinburgh Festival. Emma Fielding won the Dame Peggy Ashcroft award for best actress for performances in *Twelfth Night* and John Ford's *The Broken Heart* at the RSC.

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Sinn Fein and loyalists demand early release as cardinal warns of return to conflict

Jailed terrorists take centre stage in peace process

By NICHOLAS WATT and RICHARD FORD

AN UNLIKELY alliance of Sinn Fein and the loyalist political parties has warned the Government that the peace process will be jeopardised unless terrorist prisoners are released as a reward for the ceasefires. Sinn Fein held rallies over the weekend to demand the release of prisoners, and the loyalists regard the issue as so important they devoted their last round of talks with the Government to it.

The prisoners' fate is one of

the issues that will determine the success of the Government's present round of exploratory talks with Sinn Fein and the two loyalist parties, the Progressive Unionists and the Ulster Democratic Party.

Terrorist prisoners, who account for 65 per cent of the 1,800 prisoners in Northern Ireland, played pivotal roles in the ceasefires. Campaigners point to three mechanisms that could be used to free, or reduce the sentences of, those

held in Northern Ireland. The first is to release life sentence inmates on licence; the second is to change the rules on remission; and the third is to extend home leave.

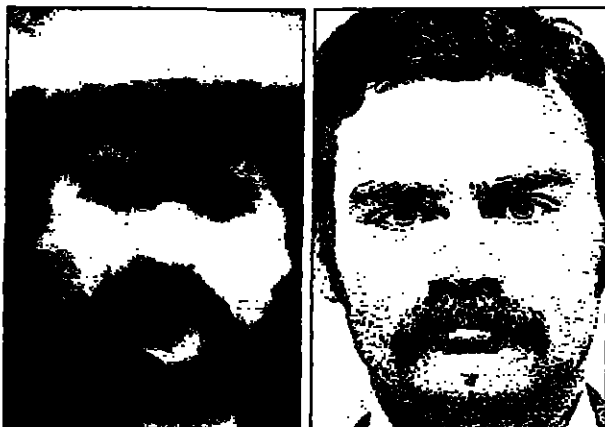
The system is less flexible for prisoners sentenced in England and Wales. Although the Government has agreed to transfer some republican inmates from England to Northern Ireland, it has voiced concern that those serving long sentences could have them substantially reduced.

There are conditions under which prisoners sentenced in England and Wales can be released. Mandatory life sentence prisoners have their case reviewed after ten years and then three years before the minimum term set by the Home Secretary. Discretionary life sentence prisoners have their sentence reviewed about three years before the expiry of the minimum term.

Inmates given a fixed-term sentence, who were jailed before the 1991 Criminal Justice Act, can be released on parole after serving one third of their sentence. But anyone sentenced after the Act came into force in October 1992 serves half before becoming eligible for parole and is then automatically released after serving two thirds.

Among those who could benefit from a change in the rules is Patrick Magee, who is serving eight life sentences for planning the Brighton bomb at the 1984 Conservative Party conference that killed five people. He is one of eight IRA inmates who have been transferred from England to Northern Ireland.

Michael Stone is serving three life sentences at the Maze prison for murdering three people at the funeral of the IRA "Gibraltar Three" in Belfast in 1988.



Stone, a loyalist prisoner, left, and the IRA's Magee, both serving multiple life sentences

Dublin attempts to bolster framework

DICK Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, spoke yesterday against watering down the Anglo-Irish framework document on the future of Northern Ireland to satisfy Unionists (Nicholas Watt writes).

His comments came after James Molyneux, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, claimed that London and Dublin were planning to introduce a form of joint British

and Irish authority over the Province. Mr Spring said both Governments had ruled that out.

"If we were now to set out to water down the framework document I think we would then end up with a lowest common denominator. That would not be helpful to anybody," he said. He is to discuss the document with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, on Thursday.



Cardinal Cahal Daly, the first Irish Roman Catholic bishop to preach in Canterbury since the Reformation

Primate in plea to 'forgive' Irish

CARDINAL Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, yesterday preached at Canterbury Cathedral, calling on the English to forgive "the wrongs inflicted by Irish people". It was the first time since the Reformation that an Irish Roman Catholic bishop had preached at Canterbury.

The Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Robin Eames, also delivered a sermon.

In a sermon on the theme "Living With Peace", Dr Daly called for mutual healing and forgiveness between Christians on all sides of the conflict, and said: "I wish to ask forgiveness from the people of this land for the wrongs and hurts inflicted by Irish people upon the people of this country on many occasions during that shared

history, and particularly in the past 25 years."

He said that only those who had endured the "long dark years of violence" could appreciate the "blessings of peace". Dr Daly, who is expected to retire later this year, gave a warning that the slide back to conflict remained a "stark possibility".

Dr Daly praised John Major, comparing him to Gladstone, but called on politicians in Westminster to work together for the consolidation of peace. He praised those jailed for terrorist offences for the "crucial role" they had played in the ceasefire and he said "they continue to play an important role in the peace process".

He said he hoped that London and Dublin would agree to the transfer of paramilitaries in jail on the mainland to

prisons near their homes, and described this as a sensitive issue.

Dr Eames said that Northern Ireland's two communities needed to know that, while great demands would be made from both as the cost of lasting peace, "neither will be sacrificed". He said: "What is essential to further progress is the due recognition of real feelings of vulnerability within both the Protestant community and the Roman Catholic community."

"At all costs there must be equal recognition and equal sensitivity to the needs of both communities."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, sent a message paying tribute to Cardinal Daly and Archbishop Eames and welcoming their role in "such a memorable, symbolic and significant occasion".

Veterans support boycott in aid of soldier

By NICHOLAS WATT

VETERANS of the Second World War are threatening to boycott the Government's VE-Day celebrations in May unless a paratrooper serving life for murder is freed. Colonel Leonard Fitzroy-Smith has said that Parachute Regiment Association branches and at least one Royal British Legion branch are ready to support a boycott.

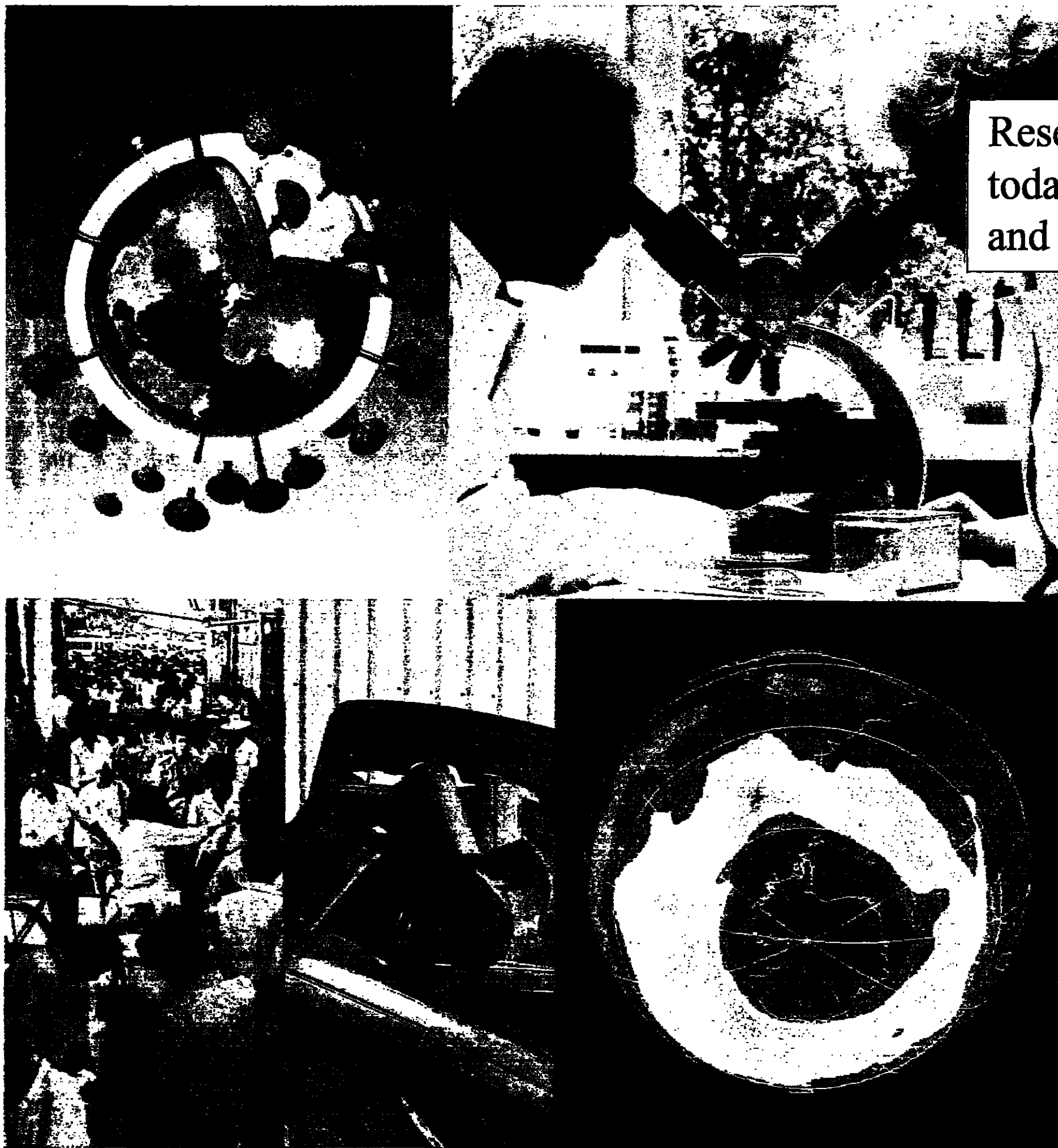
"They feel it would be two-faced to support the Government's VE-Day celebrations if Private Lee Clegg is still in prison," said Col Fitzroy-Smith, who served in Airborne Forces during the war and won the Military Cross.

Four former paratrooper officers will present evidence today to challenge the conviction of Private Clegg who was sentenced to life for murdering a teenager travelling in a joyrider's car in Belfast in 1990. Lieutenant General Sir Napier Crookenden, who is in regular contact with Clegg, said that the evidence would show that the paratrooper was innocent.

Clegg, 26, a member of 3 Battalion, lost his appeal to the House of Lords last week against the conviction for the murder of Karen Reilly, 18, who was a passenger in a car driven by a joyrider in West Belfast. She died after Clegg opened fire on the car as it sped through an Army checkpoint in the republican area of the city in September 1990.

Clegg, who is serving his sentence in Wakefield jail, maintained that he fired four shots in self defence because he believed the car contained terrorists.

The Clegg Committee will challenge evidence by forensic scientists at the trial that he fired the bullet which killed Miss Reilly. Lt Gen Sir Napier Crookenden, 79, said: "One bullet which lodged in the poor girl's back was traced back by forensic evidence to his rifle. We propose to challenge that."



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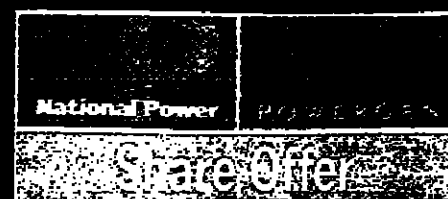


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Angry electorate seeks revenge on Government 'determined to run industry down'

Tories fear backlash as Cornwall kicks against its sense of isolation

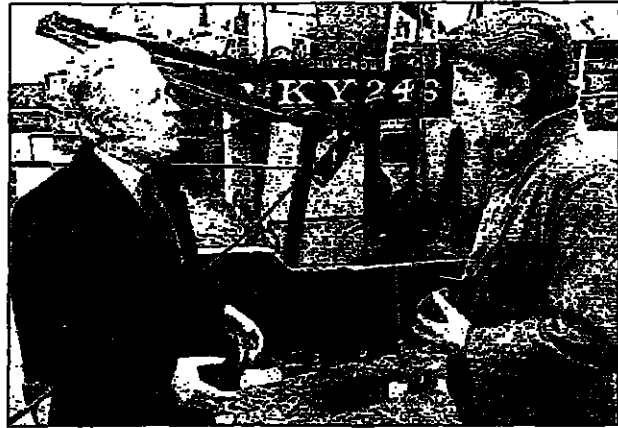
By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THERE is a mood of vengeance abroad in Cornwall where people, young and old, are preparing to practise their ancient wrecking skills on the Tory Government. The reason can be found in every port and harbour of the rocky coastline from which the Spanish Armada was first seen beating up the Channel in 1588.

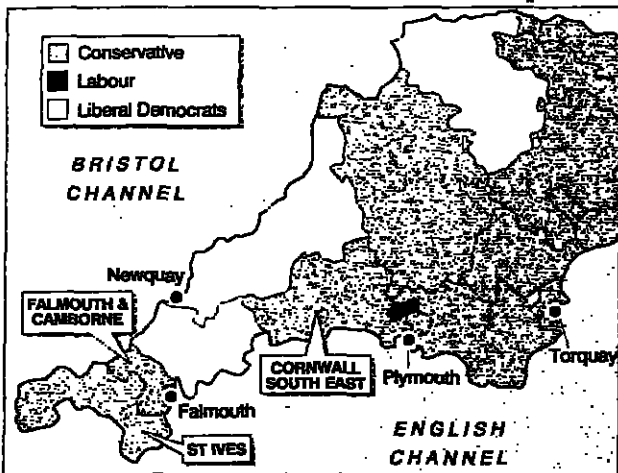
The Cornish are bent on retaliation for the Government's failure to protect the local fishing industry from a second Spanish armada of fishing boats. Support for the Tories, already dented when they lost the Euro-seat to the Liberal Democrats for the first time last year, is reaching new depths. The three local Tory MPs, all of whom have majorities of less than 8,000, face humiliating defeats at the next general election.

Down at the quayside in Newlyn, fishermen are disgusted with the Government for allowing the Spanish access to British waters. The Government's offer of an extra £27 million for decommissioning their fleets is no answer, they say. In the bars, the talk is of an industry disappearing in the same way as the Cornish language. Mick Mahon, an angry local, said: "It cost me £400 to vote Tory in the last election. I lost a day's fishing to vote. Now I want anybody Tory out for the sake of the next generation."

The fishermen make up 20,000 of the 450,000 Cornish population, but everyone shares the spirit of vengeance. The fishing dispute has become a symbol of Cornwall's increasing sense of isolation. It is easier for ministers to get to Brussels than Penzance, which is five hours by train from London and has no regular air service. Cornishmen believe that this shows they feel victimised by the Tories on almost every count. All but one of their mines has closed and their farmers



David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives, talks to Peter Neale, a fisherman, about the threat from Spain



had to cut production to let the French and Germans export food to Britain. The retired who flock to Cornwall for the sun have been alienated by the VAT on domestic fuel and terrified by crime. The young still have no university in the county.

David Hick, a beef and arable farmer and the most westerly voter on the English mainland, said: "I voted Conservative all my life but I will go Liberal Democrat this time. The Tories have forgotten we exist." Unlike the Home Counties, the South West is not yet coming out of the recession. Unlike Wales and Scotland, which have the Welsh and Scottish offices,

and development agencies to fight for them in Westminster, the South West is not specially represented.

Wales got £170 million in Government subsidies last year, the South West, got £52 million. Yet in Cornwall unemployment is 10.8 per cent and in some areas is still rising. Wages are 17 per cent below the national average.

If that is not enough, their water bills are the highest in the country. Every schoolchild in the county can tell you that Cornwall has only 3 per cent of the population but is paying to clean up 30 per cent of Britain's beaches. Now they have been told that they may

have to pay 4 per cent more on their gas bills because they live so far from the North Sea.

Everyone is worried that a privatised British Rail will stop services at Plymouth, ending main line services through the county that bring in the tourists. However hard the Government tries to reassure them that through-ticketing will not mean they have to drive to Devon to buy their tickets, they do not believe them. On a coast dependent on tourism, the Government is even blamed for the fact that B & Bs must now comply with "absurd" EC hygiene regulations if they sleep more than six people.

The three Tory MPs and their supporters are calling on the Government to do something urgently for the South West before the Liberal Democrats and Labour carve it up. William Rogers, treasurer for the St Ives constituency, was frustrated. "The majority here are naturally Conservative: small businessmen, shopkeepers or in the tourist trade. We believed in home ownership and flourished in the 1980s. We have had terrible knocks in the last four years."

"Now we are seeing massive business rate hikes, unemployment is still dangerously high and people are struggling with mortgages. Brussels and Westminster seem intent on wearing Cornish industries down. The Government is silly not to start concentrating on its core supporters," he said.

John Daniel, the leader of the Tories on the Liberal Democrat-held county council in Truro, said: "I am a Cornishman first and Tory second. The Tories would be happy to let us fall into the sea. The Government could win here if it showed it was interested."

"The Liberal Democrat council is closing old people's homes and has pursued very unpopular policies over New Age travellers. The party conference was a disaster with its



A decommissioned trawler is dismantled for scrap. Many fear fishing fleets will go the way of the mines and Cornish language, which have all but disappeared

votes on legalisation of cannabis, giving under-age girls the pill and scrapping the monarchy. And Paddy Ashdown didn't even turn up for the fishing vote.

"Labour now has a chance in Sebastian Coe's constituency of Falmouth and Camborne but the Government needs to warn the Cornish that Labour's policy of regional assemblies could mean Cornwall being governed by Bristol, which we would never accept."

The three MPs are remain-

ing optimistic. They have all played the independent card strongly.

Robert Hicks, who has been MP for Cornwall Southeast for 25 years, hardly mentioned the word Tory in his election manifesto at the last election. "You cannot keep on taking money out of Cornwall without putting something back in. The Government must acknowledge the fragility of this area. The least we could have is a proper development agency."

David Harris, Tory MP for

St Ives, who has a 1,645 majority and was the only MP to vote against the Government on the fishing vote last week, has gained points but is still worried.

"Biscuit-making and plastic mouldings make more money for us but fishing is the backbone of my constituency. If we are going to retain the South West we must become more Euro-sceptic and get it across to the electorate that it is the Liberal Democrats and Labour who will sell us down the river to Brussels," he said.

Fishermen call for Britain to ignore Brussels

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

FISHERMEN have voted for withdrawal from the European Union's common fisheries policy, throwing in their lot with the Tory Euro-rebels.

At a meeting in Derby at the weekend, fishermen's representatives from throughout England and Wales agreed on a campaign to persuade MPs and the public that access to British waters must be brought under national control if the fishing industry is to survive. David Scott, of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said all pressure, within the law, would be brought to get Britain out of the common policy. "We will be highlighting its failures and pushing forward an alternative strategy for managing fish stocks."

Michael Jack, the Fisheries Minister, agreed yesterday that the fisheries policy (CFP) should be changed but added that what the fishermen were demanding was unattainable. "Whilst we are members of the European Union, it is just not possible to renege on our solemn agreements," he said.

In effect, the fishermen want Britain to behave as if it were no longer a member of the EU and decide for itself which foreign boats should be allowed into British waters. This is incompatible with the principle of the CFP, that fish stocks are a common resource to which all member states should have equal access.

The militant views of trawlermen from Cornwall and Devon, who will be in the front line when Spanish trawlers start fishing off Ireland and southwest England next January, were backed despite warnings from more moderate leaders that they were being unrealistic.

The national federations said it would not support post-blockades and other unlawful action, though it has not always been able to prevent such protests in the past.

Politics of the sewer defines debate

By ALICE THOMSON

FALLING standards in public life are frowned upon in Cornwall, but it is the politics of the sewer not the gutter that will affect the next general election. The cost of water after privatisation in 1989 has infuriated the Cornish.

Against a national average of £199, people in the South West have to pay £304 each for water and sewerage. Some families in homes built since 1989 are metered and

have bills of £620 a year. Last year Ian Byatt, the Director-General of Water Services, announced that South West Water could no longer increase bills by 11.5 per cent and capped increases to 1.5 per cent above inflation. But the damage had already been done and, while shareholders in the company received dividends of £32 million last year, water bills will remain £100 above the national

average. SWW has blamed the bills on the £2 billion improvement programme, required by Europe.

Sebastian Coe, MP for Falmouth and Camborne, said: "This Government has inherited a century of under-investment in sewage systems and the Cornish are paying the costs. It is hard for my older constituents who feel they are expected to foot the tourists' bill."



Coe: "People feel they are paying for tourists"



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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South		Love all, IMPs (Swiss teams)	
♠ J6	♥ J94	♠ A984	♥ A853
♦ J43	♣ AQ753	♦ 1052	♣ J6
♠ 1073	♥ Q62	♠ KQ62	♥ K107
♦ A98	♣ 10642	♦ KQ76	♣ K9

W N E S
Pass 3NT Pass 3NT
Contract: 3NT by South. Opening lead: ♠2
(1) 14-16 points

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The format of a Swiss teams competition is that, after a random first-round draw, teams with the same scores play each other. Towards the end of the event, therefore, the better teams expect to play each other. In this year's British Bridge League Swiss Teams, one of the matches in the first round saw four well-seasoned internationals all at the same table.

Declarer on this deal was John Armstrong who, with his regular partner Graham Kirby, has been a member of nearly every British open team for the past ten years. They will be seen in action at the Macallan Pairs this week. Armstrong won the club lead in hand with his king and, rather than try to develop tricks in that suit, he played in diamonds, West winning the second round of the suit. West

switched to the two of hearts to his partner's ace and East returned the three of hearts. What was the heart position?

Armstrong realised that West must have the queen of hearts for his switch to the two (with only small cards he would have led a higher card) and that East must have four hearts for his continuation of the three (if he had started with A 8 3, say, he would have returned the eight). So he rose with the king of hearts, blocking the suit, and cashed his diamonds. He could now afford to knock out the ace of spades to establish two tricks in that suit to go with one heart, three diamonds and three clubs.

If the declarer had ducked the heart continuation, West would have continued with a third heart and that would have left East with a long heart to cash when he was in with the ace of spades.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British success in Norway

In spite of losing in round seven, the London player Andrew Kinsman is heading for the best result of his life in the international tournament in Gausdal, Norway.

He is in hot pursuit of the Australian grandmaster Ian Rogers in the race for first prize, and en route Kinsman inflicted an impressive defeat on the Swedish grandmaster Tomas Ernst.

In the final position Black's sacrificial counter-attack has led to unstoppable threats against the white queen and the white king. Black's main intention is the move ... Qg1 which delivers instant checkmate.

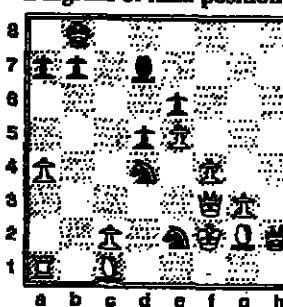
White: Tomas Ernst

Black: Andrew Kinsman
Gausdal, January 1995

French Defence

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 e5 c5

Diagram of final position



5 a3	Ba5
6 b4	cxd4
7 Qg4	Ne7
8 bxa5	dxn3
9 Qxg7	Rg8
10 Qxh7	Nc6
11 K	Qxc5
12 N3	Bd7
13 Ng5	0-0-0
14 Nxf7	Nf5
15 Nc8	Qxc8
16 Qh3	Nc4
17 Qxc3+	Kc6
18 a4	Qh4+
19 g3	Rg3
20 Rg3	Qxh1
21 K2	Qh2+
22 K2	Qh2
23 Q3	Nc4

White resigns

Short shines in Holland

Meanwhile, another British success is looming in the powerful international knockout tournament at Wijk aan Zee, Holland.

Nigel Short has knocked out three opponents in swift succession and is the first player to reach the semi-finals. Other prominent grandmasters including Jan Timman of Holland, the former American champion Yasser Seirawan and the Russian Olympic gold medalist Evgeny Bareev are still competing for their place in the semi-final.

Whatever the outcome of the semi-finals, the authority of Short's play so far makes it clear that he has finally banished the hesitant form that has dogged him since his challenge for the world title at London against Garry Kasparov in 1993.

Winning Move, page 44

We are now up against invaders of a different kind: drug smugglers, racketeers, and murderers

Wanted: protection from the new world disorder

Defensive strategies tend to grow out of perceived threats. The outcome, in 1949, was the North Atlantic Treaty, with its offspring, Nato. But what if threats are not perceived? And what if leadership is lacking?

The collapse of the Iron Curtain, as symbolised by the Berlin Wall, and of the Soviet system, in 1989 and 1991 respectively, prompted euphoria. President Bush even envisaged a New World Order. New clichés abound. They include "the end of the Cold War", "the post-Cold War world" and "the post-Communist world". But clichés, however useful to journalists and politicians, do not always correspond with realities. Here are some of the latter:

□ There is no New World Order. Instead, there is disorder on a vast scale, from the former Yugoslavia to Somalia, to Haiti to Rwanda, to Chechnya. Moreover, new and major challenges to Western security now face us. They include the co-ordinated terrorist threat from Islamic fundamentalism; and the new international co-ordination of criminal groups.

□ Nato is all at sea. A "feel-good" club has been launched, calling itself "Partnership for Peace", essentially a device for appearing to welcome new members into the Western Alliance without offending Russia. A widened membership of Nato itself is under discussion.

□ Communism, alas, has not collapsed. What has collapsed is Moscow's imperial control over its former satellite empire, including in recent memory, the peripheral empire: Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Vietnam; and of course Stalin's closer satellite empire of East Germany and the other East European dependencies. Communist parties no longer necessarily believe in Marxism, although they retain a taste for governing in Leninist style where they have not yet been ousted, as in China, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba. They have returned to office, under reassuring names, in Lithuania, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria. In Romania, they merely changed their name and sailed on — minus the long-reigning tyrant, Ceausescu — after controversial elections.

As for the ex-Soviet Union, several parties using the word "communist" are now represented in Russia's elected parliament. In some of the ex-Soviet republics — including Kazakhstan with its nuclear weapon — they have adopted the new name formula, without stepping down.

In the Cold War world, the main co-ordinating force of international terrorism was the Soviet Union, although to say so was considered bad form in the US State Department and the Foreign Office of Her Majesty's Government. In our new, disorderly world, Islamic fundamentalists dominate the international terrorism market. The democratic West is the prime target, as well as with those Muslim governments that are considered to be instruments of the Western infidel.

America — Ayatollah Khomeini's "Great Satan" — is now a major target for fundamentalists. The Islamic attempt to destroy the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York in February 1993 was only the tip of a growing iceberg.

At the heart of our new world disorder is a new world criminal order. The problem was documented in a remarkable book by the American journalist Claire Sterling called *Crime Without Frontiers* published last year. A pact between the Sicilian Mafia and the American Cosa Nostra on one side and the Colombian cartels on the other was extended to the post-Soviet gangs, to the Japanese Yakuza and the Hong Kong triads.

In Soviet times, a mafia already existed. One of its chiefs was the ruling party's boss in Azerbaijan — and Brezhnev's protégé — Geidar Aliyev, who came to London on an official visit early last year. In the old days, however, the immense frontiers of the USSR were patrolled by the KGB's border guards. Now they are porous — as indeed, increasingly, are the borders of the European Community.

Brian Crozier says Nato must be reinvented to tackle the growing threat posed by the collapse of Moscow's imperial control over its former satellite empire

agenda

Criminal trading is gathering pace all over the world.

Of what interest is all this to Nato? The short answer is: a great deal less than it ought to be. The strategic significance of the new international crime syndicates was the theme of a report issued in August 1993 by the National Strategy Information Centre in Washington, and communicated to the relevant sub-committee of the Senate in April last year.

It may be argued that these are problems for Western police forces, and for Interpol. This is true. But this exponential expansion of international crime is also strategic significance. For one thing, the substances now being traded by international gangs include weapons-grade plutonium. But how much of it? A precise answer is probably impossible, but the following figures appear to be internationally accepted in police circles: 130 tons available; about 150 kilograms actually on the move;

enough to make, say, 50 bombs of Hiroshima's destructive power. Where does the United Nations come in? I am not known for uncritical support of this ill-conceived entity; but it is still there and cannot be entirely ignored. One thing in its favour was the UN-sponsored 136-nation conference in Naples on organised crime, last November. The UN, however, cannot act decisively in this new area of strategy. In the new world disorder, no massed armies are waiting to invade Western Europe, still less the United States. We are up against invaders of a different kind: drug smugglers and racketeers, murderers and enforcers.

To deal with international crime requires a combination of police and military force. At all costs, Nato (the real, qualified peace force) should be preserved, if only because in the absence of the former Soviet threat it could not be rebuilt. But it should acquire a new dimension: Interpol should have a permanent liaison presence at Nato headquarters, and a North Atlantic equivalent of the American Drug Enforcement Agency should be worked into the new entity. The terrorist challenge also calls for a special branch at Nato, instead of leaving each country to tackle the problem individually.

In this domain, an international diplomacy has a vital role to play. Although very few Islamic governments are democratic in the Western sense, not many of them are fundamentalist, and even those that are not necessarily involved in Jihad terrorism. To illustrate the point: fundamentalist Iran is involved, but not fundamentalist Saudi Arabia. The industrialised Western countries, on their own, cannot possibly defeat the Jihad, although they may successfully counter individual acts, as the French did with the Algiers Airbus. Only the Islamic governments themselves can counter the challenge at its roots. Their collaboration, in their own interest as well as in ours, can be achieved only through patient and experienced diplomacy on our side — and where necessary, the right arms and technical advice.

What the new challenges of the disorderly world call for is a recognition by Nato that it did not exist in 1949. Do we have the necessary leaders to rethink Western strategy? One looks around and sees none. But there is a consoling thought. Necessity sometimes creates leaders. Remember Harry Truman?

A revised edition of Brian Crozier's autobiography, *Free Agent*, serialised in *The Times* in June and July 1993, is now available in paperback (HarperCollins, £7.99).



■ INTERPOL: telegraphic address of the International Organisation of Criminal Police forces in Paris (Organisation Internationale de Police Criminelle).

■ JIHAD: a Holy War to the death of Muslims against unbelievers in Islam. On December 26, an elite team of the French Gendarmerie stormed an Airbus passenger plane at Marseilles airport, which had been hijacked in Algiers two days earlier by four

GLOSSARY OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER

terrorists of the *Front Islamique du Salut* (FIS) who had killed three passengers in Algiers. Thirteen passengers, three crew members and nine gendarmes were injured, but 65 passengers were freed.

■ PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE: This plan for limited defence arrangements

between Nato and individual east European countries was agreed at an informal meeting of Nato defence ministers in October 1993. The same month, Andrei Kozhev, the Russian Foreign Minister, called on east European countries to join Russia in transforming the CSCE into a fully fledged

organisation for world peace and security. ■ CSCE: Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Also known as the Helsinki conference, which culminated in the Helsinki Final Act of July 1975. In effect, the Final Act enshrined "detente" between the USSR and the US, and between Nato and the Warsaw Pact as negotiated in parallel summits and arms limitation agreements between Brezhnev and Nixon.



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Mourners call for revenge bombings and accuse Rabin

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FOR how long can this go on, angry Jews at the scene of yesterday's suicide bomb attack near the Israeli resort of Netanya shouted at Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister. It was raw evidence how much strain Islamic terror is placing on the ailing Middle East peace process.

The attack occurred on the day of sombre national events to mark the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz 50 years ago. The emotions were intensified by the loss of more innocent Jewish lives to add to the toll of 100 Israelis claimed by right-wing groups since the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed.

Instead of facing the mounting anger of ordinary Israelis and the stench of recent death at the popular soldiers' roadside halt known as Beit Lid junction, Mr Rabin should have been attending a ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial to dedicate a monument to the victims of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Inevitably, many ordinary Israelis — including those at schools which marked Aus-

witz Day with an hour of special Holocaust studies — were quick to make the comparison between the slaughter of Jews in the Second World War and the campaign by Islamic militants aimed at sabotaging the peace process by turning the Israeli public against it and the Government which inaugurated it after its 1992 election victory.

Recent opinion polls have shown that the escalation of terror against Jewish civilian targets inside Israel's 1967 boundaries is the main cause of the slump in popularity of Mr Rabin and his Labour Party, now lagging behind the main right-wing opposition Likud group, which has promised to scrap the deal with the PLO if it returns to power in the election due next year.

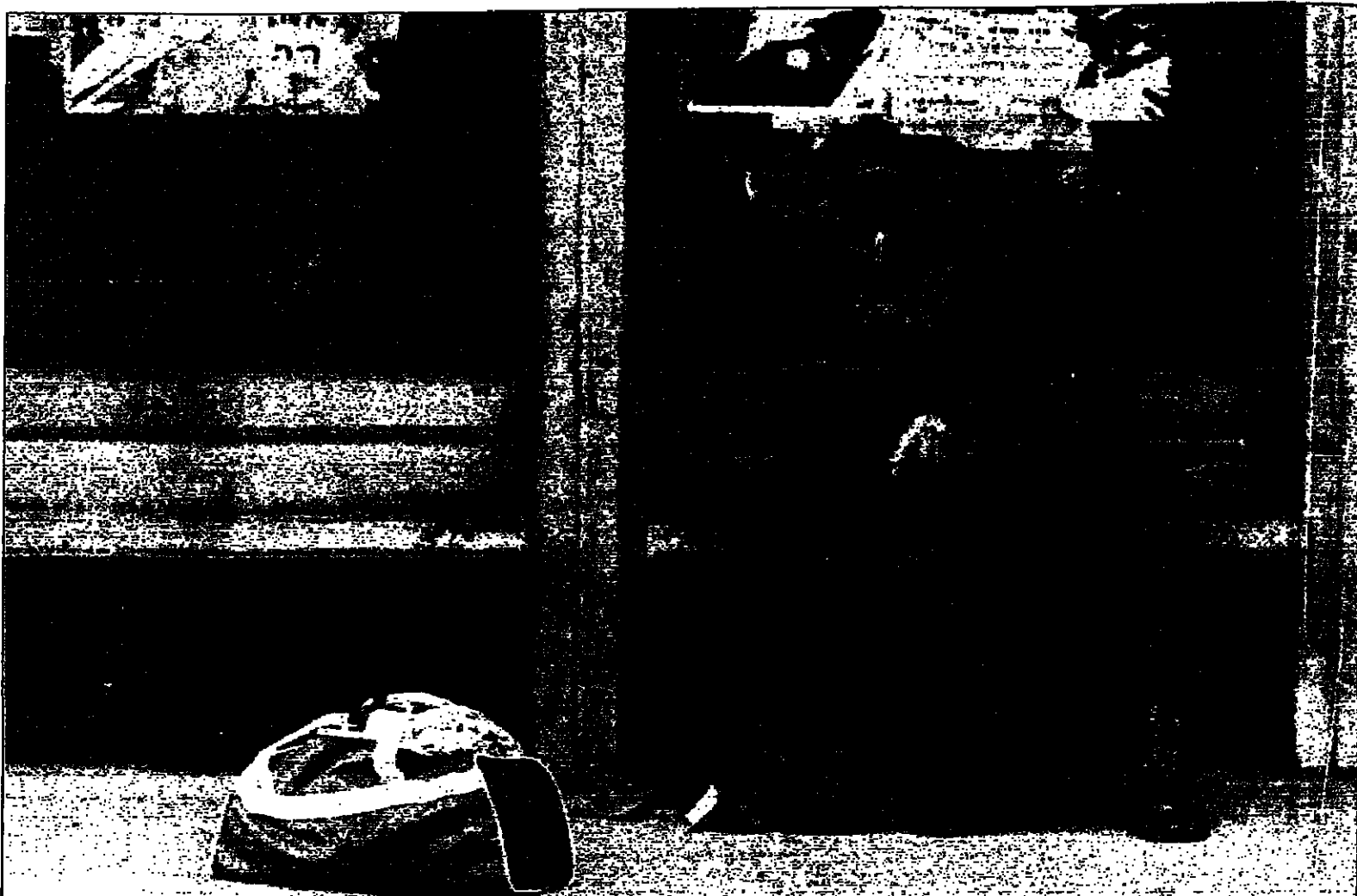
Yesterday, Likud and other right-wing parties were quick to exploit the frustration felt by voters at the inability of the security services to cope with Israel's new public enemy No 1, the Islamic suicide bomber. The party led by Benjamin Netanyahu, younger brother of the dead hero of the Entebbe raid in 1976, lambasted the Rabin administration, already deeply divided internally about how to deal with the

unravelling peace deal. "Labour is a weak Government which has given in to terror because it did not declare a war to the bitter end to end it," Likud said.

Yigal Bilbi of the National Religious Party, an opposition group involved in planning a new pro-settlement campaign at the very moment that the two bombs ripped through the crowd of soldiers, was more outspoken. He called on Israelis to "rise up" to overthrow the Government. Motti Cohen, a driver in the army reserve, voiced the anger of many when he said: "It is time that the Jews started a terror group of their own. This type of killing just cannot be allowed to go on."

Even supporters of the peace process such as Uri Dromi, the chief government spokesman, were unable to restrain their anger or growing conviction that the seemingly endless series of bloody attacks on Jews will have to stop, or the peace experiment begun with such hope on the lawn of the White House will have to be halted.

Mr Dromi said: "Yassir Arafat will now have to make a stand. The Palestinians will have to understand that there



An Israeli soldier, holding the shirt of a friend who was among those hurt in yesterday's suicide bombing, breaks down at the scene of the explosion

is only so much that the Israelis can take. We are committed to the peace process, and we have taken a lot of blows in the past. But I think it is time to say 'enough is enough'." The divisions inside the Cabinet were displayed as ministers from the left-wing Meretz faction insist-

ed that the peace process should continue unabated, while others on the right were seeking a halt in talks already deadlocked over the key question of when Israeli troops are going to withdraw from Arab population centres in the occupied West Bank. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Housing Minis-

ter and a popular former army officer, was adamant that the slaughter, the worst since 22 Jews were killed last October in a Tel Aviv bus bomb, represented a watershed. Inspecting the scene of carnage, he said: "This is one of the most tragic days I remember since I was a child. I do not

think it is possible to close the eyes and say 'this is the price' (of peace)."

□ Cabinet decision: The carnage overshadowed what had been expected to be a Cabinet deliberation on further settlement building in parts of the West Bank dubbed "Greater Jerusalem". (Ben Lyndfield

writes). The cabinet, in an ambiguous announcement, appeared to leave Mr Rabin leeway for continued large-scale building at existing settlements. It rejected a freeze sought by Palestinians on new Israeli construction, opting to appoint a committee to review further building projects.

Britain's role in Auschwitz deaths to be recalled

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE case of the 1,000 Jewish orphans sent to Auschwitz after being denied sanctuary by Britain in 1942 will be recalled at a commemoration of the Holocaust at the weekend.

General Vasili Petrenko, the Russian commander who finally liberated the extermination camp near Cracow in Poland in 1945, will attend a London meeting at which the wartime British Government will be accused of failing adequately to protect European Jewry. Fred Barschak, a member of the Holocaust memorial committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, will highlight the case of the 1,000 orphans in a speech at the meeting.

"In September 1942 the American Government persuaded the Vichy

Government to take a breather from its own deportations and offer the British Government 1,000 children aged four to 14," he said yesterday. "The British Government could send a ship under seal of safe conduct to any port under their control and they could take the children."

"On September 7, 1942, Mr Schiff, who was leader of the immigrant community, made an offer to the British Government, saying not one child would be a charge on the public purse. He said: 'I guarantee absolutely that Jewish and refugee community organisations will take these children.'"

"On September 7, discussions began involving the Home Office and Foreign Office, some chaired by Herbert Morrison." But bureaucrats raised difficulties. "There was a law against admitting anybody from en-

emy-occupied territory, with no exceptions," Mr Barschak said. The bureaucrats held the view that "if we take these children, won't Hitler make another 1,000 orphans?"

The civil servants also wanted to know how they could be sure the children were in fact orphans. "Herbert Morrison caustically replied: 'Do you expect the Germans to supply death certificates?'"

"On December 7, 1942, Mr Schiff reported to the Board of Deputies that he had met with blanket refusals to take the children. By January 1943 the children were sent to Auschwitz because of the prevarication of the British Government."

According to official minutes, Morrison, whose wife was Jewish, feared that the children's arrival might "stir up an unpleasant degree of anti-

Semitism, of which there is a fair amount just below the surface, and that would be bad for the country and the Jewish community."

Alexander Cadogan, the Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary, was concerned about justifying to Britain's allies the granting of visas to "enemy aliens, however sound the humanitarian factor". A Home Office memorandum said it would be "necessary to refuse to admit such children unless evidence is forthcoming that both of the parents have perished."

The commemoration will be at 3pm in Logan Hall, Bedford Way, Bloomsbury, central London, on Sunday. Tickets can be obtained by telephoning (0171) 387 3952.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

France faces EU isolation over backing for Algeria

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FRANCE will find itself isolated today in its unwavering support for the military Government in Algeria, as other European Community Foreign Ministers discuss the worsening conflict there and urge the warring parties to compromise.

Britain and most other EU members except France have been angered by President Zouari's blunt dismissal of a peace plan put forward by Algeria's opposition parties, including the Islamic Salvation Front, at their recent talks in Rome. The EU Foreign Ministers, who will discuss the conflict in Brussels today, are increasingly sceptical that the Algerian Government's hardline tactics will end the civil war.

Attacks by Islamic fighters in Algeria were stepped up at the weekend. A Frenchman of Jewish origin was shot dead as he drove through the centre of the city yesterday. Joseph Belsaiche was the 26th Frenchman and 76th foreigner killed since foreigners were warned to leave Algeria in September 1993. Thirty guerrillas raided

a mountain hotel 60 miles southeast of Algiers, killing one worker and critically wounding the manager. On Saturday, fundamentalists killed Rachid Harsague, president of the Algerian football federation. He was shot in the head when he opened his door to a guerrilla posing as a football fan.

Yesterday the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the Muslim guerrilla groups, warned radio and television journalists to stop working immediately or face attack. The threat, published in the London-based newspaper *al-Hayat*, described journalists as "hired media who justify the crimes and cover up the evils" of the Algerian authorities.

Today Britain will discuss with its partners the possible evacuation of all remaining diplomats in Algeria, many of whom are confined to barricaded compounds. Armed attacks on these have increased, and Britain is close to shutting its embassy altogether. Britain will also make clear to France its firm opposition to

any big increase in EU aid to Algeria. France, now holding the EU presidency, wants to commit the 15 to a rapid increase in emergency funds for the North African Government to combat Islamic radicalism and stem the flow of emigrants. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said recently that Britain did not believe money alone would solve the problems of Algeria or improve security in the Mediterranean.

Britain has co-operated with France in keeping track of leading FIS members and other activists in Britain. But in the face of widening violence, London has begun to side with Washington, which has called for political dialogue in Algeria and supported the proposed replacement of the military regime with a coalition government before the calling of fresh elections.

In Egypt, police in the southern town of Sohag shot dead the new head of the banned *Camara al-Islamiya* group yesterday. Mahmud Selim, 29, was accused of planning attacks on police.

MPs urge debate on apartheid immunity

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

OPPOSITION MPs have demanded a 90-minute debate today, after the reopening of the South African parliament, on the immunity from prosecution of 3,500 police officers and two former Cabinet ministers for possible crimes committed during the apartheid era.

President Mandela and F. W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President and leader of the National Party, shook hands on Friday after a tense week that threatened to shatter the nine-month-old Government and agreed, in Mr Mandela's words, to "make a fresh start".

Douglas Gibson, spokesman on justice for the liberal Democratic Party, which has called for the debate, said yesterday that the government bickering over the indemnity issue was unacceptable.

He said that those who had applied had tacitly admitted apartheid crimes and "a sensible, co-ordinated policy" was needed to "satisfy all the parties concerned".

The African National Congress believes that Adriaan Vlok, the former Minister of Law and Order, Magnus Malan, the former Defence Minister, and 3,500 police officers tried to secure indemnity on the eve of last April's elections. Mr Mandela believed Mr de Klerk had been part of an intrigue to dishonour an agreement that security force indemnities would be granted only by a new government.

Tribal killings threaten to spread into Kenyan cities

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGUCHA

ETHNIC clashes that have left 300,000 Kenyans homeless and at least 1,500 dead over the past four years now threaten to spread to the capital, Nairobi, along the country's most popular tourist routes.

Earlier this month ten members of the Kikuyu tribe, many of them elderly farmers, were slaughtered by Masai warriors with spears and clubs a few hundred yards from the road used by hundreds of thousands of tourists visiting the Masai Mara reserve. Eight houses were set alight close to the newly repaved road leading to the park, which is a World Heritage site.

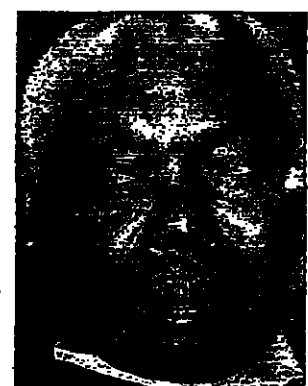
The resurgence of the clashes came after refugees displaced by killings in nearby Enkoko, a town in 1993, were driven out of temporary shelters around a Roman Catholic church in Masai at gunpoint on Christmas Eve and dumped at sites scattered through what the administration describes as their "ancestral areas", closer to Central Province. The moves against the

Kikuyu farmers are aimed, opposition politicians say, at fulfilling President Moi's ambition of establishing hegemony over the region for his Kenya African National Union.

But Western diplomats fear that his recent threat to call snap elections two years before his term is due to expire might spark a violent backlash in Kenya's main cities, which are dominated by oppo-

nents of the Government. The clashes began soon after Mr Moi said in 1990 that the advent of multi-party politics would unleash a wave of inter-tribal warfare. His predictions have come true, with the bulk of the killings being carried out by members of his Kalenjin tribe and their Masai allies.

Concern over Government corruption and the clashes, aimed at driving Kikuyu people from the Rift Valley, provoked donors to cut aid for balance-of-payments support in 1991. In December, after the inflation rate dropped from over 100 per cent a year to about 12 per cent, and the shilling appreciated from 120 to the pound to 70, the annual aid of \$544 million was freed. □ Nairobi: Scores of people were injured when the police stormed the home of the late Oginga Odinga, the former opposition leader, to disperse thousands who gathered in the west of the country to mark the first anniversary of his death, newspapers reported yesterday. (AFP)



Moi: predicted wave of inter-tribal murders

Buddhists snub Pope as tour ends

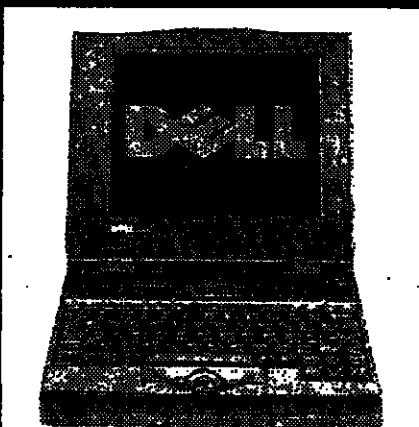
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Pope is back in Rome after a 20,000-mile Asia tour that ended on a controversial note in Sri Lanka. Barely 50,000 attended Mass on the windswept seashore in Colombo on Saturday at which 500,000 had been expected. Buddhist monks carried out their threat to snub the

Pope because he refused to apologise for remarks he made about their religion, Sri Lanka's Government, which worked feverishly to settle the quarrel, was embarrassed. The country's Buddhist hierarchy has a reputation for political and theological dogmatism, with occasional outbursts of violent extremism. From where he spoke, the Pope could see a statue of

Solomon Bandaranaike, the former Prime Minister shot by a Buddhist monk in 1959. The Pope told Muslim, Christian and Hindu leaders at a meeting on Saturday no Buddhists were present — that perhaps nothing represented a greater threat to Sri Lanka than continuing ethnic violence in the north, where Tamils are fighting for a separate homeland.

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1995 is an important year for energy policy in Britain. The results of the national Nuclear Review will be announced. These will influence the mix of electricity supplies well into the 21st century. And a new nuclear station, largely built by British

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Director, Centre for Social and Economic Research
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Dr Mary Archer, Chair, National Energy Foundation.

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Lord Prior, Chairman, General Electric Co. plc.

It contributes to balanced energy supplies.

"Any sensible energy policy must keep all the options in some balance; broadly I think Britain and the world can't afford to be without nuclear energy."

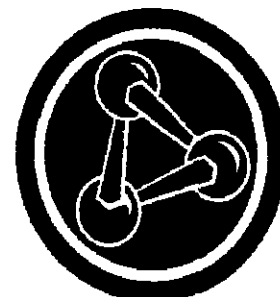
Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York.

We believe that to uphold all the benefits this source of energy offers, Britain should move ahead now and build new nuclear stations to replace old ones coming out of service.

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If you'd like to know more about the case for nuclear energy, call 0272 244750 or write to the British Nuclear Industry Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB. Or fax the Forum on 071 828 0110.



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Kobe survivors face new threat from landslides

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

EARTHQUAKE survivors, many of them camping in makeshift shelters, faced fresh fears of landslides, after-shocks and disease yesterday as driving rain and intense cold hampered relief efforts in Kobe.

The death toll from the last Tuesday's quake rose to about 5,000 as poor weather conditions forced rescuers to abandon their search in many areas, including the Rokko region near Kobe, where 30 people were buried alive in a landslide. More than 175 people are still missing, and almost 26,000 are injured, many of them seriously.

A team of 15 British rescuers left for Kobe yesterday, despite an initial refusal from the Japanese Government to their offer of help. Willie McMartin, the leader, said that there was now little chance of finding survivors.

The authorities issued emergency warnings to people to evacuate more than 1,200 buildings around Kobe in case of landslides. After-shocks continue to rock the area and on Saturday one was recorded that measured 4.1 on the Richter scale. Another quake, measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale, occurred yesterday. It was centred off the Izu Peninsula, below Mount Fuji and about 55 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The waves of Kobe refugees fleeing areas prone to landslides have aggravated the severe congestion in makeshift evacuation centres. As strong winds took hold and the dangers of floods and lightning increased, more than 370,000 people spent their seventh night in cramped and unsanitary conditions. Despite the weather, relief work-

The Governor of Osaka criticised the survivors for being lazy and unwilling to help themselves

ers yesterday managed to set up large tents to shelter more than 4,000 survivors.

The flow of food and medical and other supplies to affected areas had improved by the weekend and local authorities reported that electricity and telephone services had been restored to most parts of the city. Water is, however, still in critically short supply.

The Japanese Government, which is reeling from widespread criticism of its slow response to the quake, yesterday decided to establish an emergency field centre in Kobe to cope with secondary disasters such as landslides

and after-shocks. A liaison office was also established in the port yesterday to co-ordinate local and national relief efforts. Commentators said, however, that such an office should have been established immediately.

Tokuo Tamazawa, the director of the Defence Agency, last night attempted to address mounting criticism of the two-day delay before soldiers were sent to help the relief work. Mr Tamazawa said that each local government was responsible for drawing up crisis management strategies, and that the Kobe city government had previously ruled out co-operation with the military in event

of an emergency. Shizuka Kamei, the Transport Minister, called a press conference at the weekend to deny reports that before last Wednesday's emergency Cabinet meeting he had described the quake as "heaven's punishment" for the rebellion by Socialist Party members in western Japan against leaders of the ruling coalition.

Mr Kamei's alleged remark was quoted by Japanese reporters covering the meeting, and came on the day that Kazuo Nakagawa, the Governor of Osaka, near Kobe, criticised the survivors for being lazy and "unwilling to help themselves".

Mr Kamei, an ultra-conservative member of the mainstream Liberal Democratic Party, is known for his intense dislike of the Socialists, who form a small but critical part of the ruling coalition. Kobe is in the Hyogo region, which is a stronghold of Socialist politicians who oppose co-operation with the LDP and who, in recent weeks, have threatened to form a new party.

On Saturday, Mr Kamei denied having used the term "heaven's punishment" and said he had merely commented "how awful it must be for the people of Hyogo to have their Socialist politicians talking of leaving the party, even after a disaster as awful as the quake".

The mounting backlash to the Government's confused response to the quake has forced a string of hasty retractions and explanations from cabinet ministers. On Friday, Tomichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, admitted to the Diet, or parliament, that there were "serious shortcomings" in the Government's emergency crisis management system. He promised to step up relief efforts and aid for victims.

Yukio Okamoto, a former senior diplomat who is now a foreign-policy commentator, said: "The question that urgently needs to be asked is whether Japan is a country with a modern system of government".

Mr Okamoto, who compared the response to last week's quake with the American response to the 1989 California earthquake, said that enormous inefficiency and confusion in communication between levels of the bureaucracy and the executive had become apparent.

More tremors: An earthquake measuring five to six on the Richter scale shook buildings on the Kurile Islands in the far east of Russia on Saturday, a spokesman for the Russian Emergency Ministry said yesterday. There were no reports of casualties. In Colombia, a strong earthquake about 75 miles north-west of Bogotá with a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 rocked a large part of the country yesterday. No injuries were reported.

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A Swiss rescuer and his dog search for victims in the rubble of a building in Kobe at the weekend

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Butler killed richest woman in US, nurse claims

BY JAMES BONE

THE court battle over the billion-dollar legacy of Doris Duke, once America's richest woman, has spawned a murder mystery worthy of Agatha Christie.

A nurse who cared for the octogenarian tobacco heiress at her Beverly Hills mansion in her final days has claimed in a sworn statement that she "did not die of natural causes", and accused a pony-tailed butler of killing her.

Tammy Payette said that Bernard Lafferty instructed a doctor to give Miss Duke lethal doses of painkillers, even though she had at least five years

to live. The nurse said that when Miss Duke returned home from hospital after a stroke in September 1993, her physical therapy was stopped and that, at Mr Lafferty's request, "she was placed on a massive sedation regime".

On October 27, Dr Charles Kivowitz asked Ms Payette to prepare an intravenous morphine solution, saying: "It's time for Miss Duke to go".

The nurse said Miss Duke's condition was stable at the time and she was not in pain. Despite the injection, she clung to life. "Later that evening, Bernard [Lafferty] became very excited and impatient because Miss Duke was

lingering and called Dr Kivowitz explaining that Miss Duke had not expired," Ms Payette said.

"Dr Kivowitz returned and injected a needle into the L.V. [intravenous] tube and began to push the morphine," she said. "Despite the massive doses of morphine, Miss Duke still did not expire until several hours later."

The heiress's body was taken away two hours later and cremated without a post-mortem examination. The cause of death was reported to be progressive pulmonary oedema. Both Mr Lafferty and Dr Kivowitz insist that Miss Duke died of heart failure caused by a build-

up of fluid in the lungs, and say the morphine was given to ease her pain.

However, the mere hint of foul play prompted the probate judge to order an investigation by Richard Kuh, a former District Attorney who made his name as a detective in the case of Claus von Bulow, the New York socialite who was acquitted of trying to murder his wife. Police in New York and Los Angeles are also considering whether to launch inquiries. Another of Miss Duke's doctors, Harry Demopoulos, is contesting Mr Lafferty's right to become a joint executor of the \$12 billion (£7.59 million) estate.



Mr Quayle tells an Indianapolis convention that he is "back in the arena" and fit for a presidential race

Quayle tries to allay health fears in presidential quest

BY IAN BRODIE

DAN QUAYLE, whose gaffes as US Vice-President made him a constant butt of comedians and cartoonists, is preparing to run for President.

He has announced plans to file candidacy papers next month and to make a formal declaration of his intention to seek the Republican nomination in April. Despite recent worries about his health, Mr Quayle, 47, says he is fit for the fight and "back in the arena".

Less than three weeks ago, surgeons removed his appendix after detecting a benign growth. They gave him a complete cancer screening but found no other problems, they said. In November and December, Mr Quayle was treat-

ed for blood clots in his lungs. Doctors said the condition was caused by being confined for long periods on aircraft, which allowed clots to form in Mr Quayle's legs and to travel to his lungs.

Eager to put questions about his health to rest, Mr Quayle told a cheering throng of 30,000 at a convention in Indianapolis that he was "scanned, tested and ready" for the campaign.

Mr Quayle has been urged by many associates and former aides to sit out the 1996 race and work on adding substance to his public image in time for the election in 2000. By then, they argue, memories will have faded about his many faux pas,

including his urging a student to add an "e" to the word potato during a spelling test. To his credit, though, his early support for family values is now a popular theme among all politicians, including Mr Clinton.

Two Republicans have already filed declarations of candidacy: Phil Gramm, a rambunctious senator from Texas, and Lamar Alexander, a low-key former education secretary and Governor of Tennessee. Robert Dole has formed an exploratory committee.

After leaving office two years ago, Mr Quayle became the first former Vice-President to make a television commercial - for potato crisps.



O.J. Simpson talks to Robert Shapiro, his lawyer, at a pretrial hearing and, right, Lance Ito, the judge who will preside over proceedings

Millions tune in as Simpson case opens

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AFTER seven months as the most famous murder suspect in American history, O.J. Simpson faces his jury for the first time today and will have to listen to prosecutors explain how they hope to convict him of killing Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend.

The long-awaited opening statements will be watched live on television by one in three adult Americans, according to recent projections. The judge has struggled to insulate the case from its context of vast wealth, racial tension, Hollywood-style celebrity and obsessive public interest, but the "trial of the century" may yet turn into an embarrassing mistrial.

Mr Simpson has pleaded not guilty. Last Wednesday, however, the defence suffered a setback when evidence that he may have abused his



Nicole Simpson: found stabbed with her friend

former wife was ruled admissible in court. On Friday, Robert Shapiro, one of the defence team, referred to the alleged violent incidents, indicating that the jury would hear the defence's version of the stormy marriage today.

The defence has been given until today to provide evidence for its theory that a key piece of evidence, a blood-stained glove found in Mr Simpson's grounds on the morning after the murders, was planted there by a detective.

Meanwhile, a new CNN poll shows an erosion of public support for Mr Simpson, once a hugely popular footballer and black role model. For the first time since he was arrested, most respondents said they were "unsympathetic" towards him.

Today, however, the case finally moves from the court of public opinion to that of Lance Ito, the bearded Japanese-American judge. The trial is expected to take at least six months. Mr Ito spent two months last year screening potential jurors and announced that they were to be sequestered for the entire

trial. He must now maintain order as prosecutors try to link Mr Simpson to the slayings that took place on June 12, 1994, with a wealth of scientific evidence.

DNA analysis of blood from the murder scene and Mr Simpson's house two miles away has already appeared to implicate him, according to reports leaked to the Los Angeles Times. Marcia Clarke, the Assistant District Attorney, says she is ready to call up to 200 witnesses who claim to have information about the football star's relationship with his former wife and his movements on June 12.

Johanne Cochran Jr, who has emerged as the lead defence lawyer after a public feud between Mr Shapiro and F. Lee Bailey, another member of the team, is expected to argue that Detective Mark Fuhrman planted the glove in

the garden out of distaste for inter-racial marriages such as the Simpsons'.

Mr Cochran has won permission to use the word "nigger" in court if he can prove that Mr Fuhrman used it in the past, despite prosecution objections that the word would infuriate the jury, eight of whom are black.

Mr Simpson's fall from grace has gripped the United States ever since he absconded on the day he was meant to surrender to police last June, leading them instead on a surreal low-speed chase along the San Diego freeway.

At times "Camp O.J.", the village of empty television studios opposite the courthouse, has been deserted, but it is full of bustling now. All the three main networks will broadcast today's statements live, losing about \$13 million (£8.2 million) in advertising revenue.

Capitol truce ends as Gingrich and Hillary trade barbs

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT COULD be the height of an election campaign, the way Bill and Hillary Clinton, Newt Gingrich and their supporters are going for each other.

With both Democrats and Republicans meeting in Washington, the two camps have been trading barbs with a fury that became personal, even ungallant, and dashed the hopes of those Americans who had hoped Washington would become less confrontational.

The onslaught came on the eve of tomorrow's State of the Union speech, the closest Americans come to a state opening of Parliament. Mr Gingrich, as Speaker, will introduce Mr Clinton to address a joint session of Congress where, for the first time in 40 years, the two chambers are under Republican control. Both men come from the South, where feigned sincerity is an ingrained habit, and will undoubtedly handle the occasion with surface civility.

Mr Gingrich spurred advice to ignore Democratic calls for him to abandon his agreement to write a book for HarperCollins, a publishing house controlled by Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of

The News Corporation, the ultimate owner of *The Times*. He said sarcastically that he knew important Democrats who would have turned down advance royalties of \$1.5 million (£3 million) as he did. He added: "They'd have said, 'I can make too much money in cattle futures'."

This was a vicious stab at Hillary Clinton's widely questioned commodity trading in which she made \$10,000 in nine months in Arkansas. The Gingrich comment brought members of the Republican National Committee heering to their feet. It annulled the truce that existed after Mrs Clinton invited Mr Gingrich and his mother to the White House for tea. Mrs Clinton's olive branch had followed the disclosure that the Speaker had confided his mother, "Bitch", to the *First Lady* was "bitch".

Now Mrs Clinton got her own back, saying he did not care what the Speaker thought of her. "I love to watch Republicans squirm when the tables are turned," she told Democrats. "They're great at dishing it out, but they really can't take it when the truth is pointed out."

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Pressure from West grows for ceasefire in capital that has become an open mortuary

Innocent victims of Grozny emerge to bury their dead

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN GROZNY

THE five Russian Hind helicopter gunships flew in circular, synchronised attack runs, pumping rockets and cannon fire into the Chechen fighters below. Nearby, an armoured personnel carrier erupted in a white flash and a grey cloud of smoke as the Chechens fought back.

Such events further contradict the credibility of President Yeltsin and his forces: the helicopters' mission was north of the Sumzha river, from where the Chechens are supposed to have been driven, and the armoured personnel carrier was in Freedom Square. There is no Russian flag above the smoking presidential palace.

Attempts at a military solution have caused the deaths of many innocent people in Grozny. The scale of last week's fighting has left the city an open mortuary, its victims allowed scant dignity. For two days after the Chechens evacuated the palace the fighting quietened as each side collected its dead. As most Chechen civilians have left the city, the weightiest mantle of suffering has fallen on the Russians. As so often in war, the tragedy is borne by the old, the poor, and

those with nowhere else to go. Under a snowy sky they are emerging from their shelters to bury their dead, dragging the corpses on sleds, hacking at the frozen soil in parks and gardens: burying while they can.

"Look," a Chechen soldier called, gesturing to a broken house beside him. "The Russians are killing their own people." Dressed from head to toe in baggy black tank uniform, including a balaklava, he looked like a ninja turtle. But any humour ended in the scene behind him where lay the frail body of an old woman surrounded by weeping family. It was a scene repeated all over the city.

Near the River Sumzha, another group of pale, aged people, stripped of their dignity by the events of the past month, wrapped the body of a friend in a carpet. She too was an old woman, who had died of the cold in a place where there is no way to keep warm any more. They strapped her to a door which they pulled, pushed and shunted to the river bank, and put the body into a hastily dug hole in the bank. It was a quick affair. There were no prayers. They were not sure who held the opposite side of the river. "We are Russians," Valentina Dudyonov said in a gentle sing-

song voice, clutching a small dog to her breast as her friend was lowered into the ground. "We don't have anywhere to go. It makes no difference to us whose flag flies above the presidency. All we get from our own people is bombs, bombs, bombs. It is so cold. There is no water. There is disease. We are dying."

Others were not even granted a burial ceremony. In a side street off the Mirminka roundabout an old couple were dead in the snow, their bags of possessions beside them. The old man sat against the wall, his hand on a yellow case, an expression of surprise on his face, a little blood visible on his chest. His wife lay five yards away. Someone had placed her hat over her face, which was slightly deformed by the mortar bomb blast that had killed them. Other than that gesture they had been left alone.

□ Moscow: About 2,000 demonstrators, many holding candles and anti-war posters, gathered outside the former KGB headquarters in Moscow yesterday to remember those who have died in the fighting (Richard Beeston writes). About 35 women from the Association of Soldiers' Mothers, left for Grozny to find their sons and take them home.



A woman pulls her belongings past a burning gas main as she leaves Grozny

Russians pour fresh troops into war zone

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOZDOK

ANY hope that the Russian army might seek a political solution to the Chechen conflict was dashed for us as we drove out of Chechnya towards the main Russian military base of Mozdok at the weekend. Immense columns of Russian reinforcements were pouring down the road towards Grozny, accompanied by stores, ammunition and heavy rocket launchers.

In one column alone, apparently of two battalions, we counted 165 lorries and 57 armoured personnel carriers. Another battalion was encamped by the roadside, its tanks in a circle pointing outwards. Thousands more troops are encamped around Mozdok, northwest of Grozny, on the Russian side of the border with Chechnya.

But if Russian numbers are continuing to increase, morale and efficiency are another matter. Maxim, 19, a conscript on guard outside the Mozdok base, cursed the war: "Who needs it? Not us, or any of the ones who have been killed. They all had families at home." Maxim said that helicopters carrying dead and wounded, nicknamed "Black Tulips", fly into Mozdok from Chechnya all the time. "We have already lost 7,000 dead in Chechnya and in the whole ten years of the Afghan war we lost only 11,000," he said.

Maxim's figure appears greatly exaggerated, but the fact that he and his friends believe it is evidence of the mood among the soldiers in Mozdok who are waiting to go into the battle.

Valeri, 19, an Interior Ministry conscript, just returned from Chechnya, said that his unit had been looking for weapons in Chechen villages, a task he described as "very nasty". He said his unit had been attacked several times by Chechen guerrillas. "After all, the Chechens are fighting for their country," he said. "There are bandits among them, but most are just ordinary people fighting to defend their homes. That is why they fight so well. I do not think we should have gone there."

When asked if the Russian

command had made mistakes, Valeri exploded: "It is worse than mistakes, it is a disgrace. It is a shambles. We have lost an enormous number of men, unnecessarily."

Morale was better among a group of special forces soldiers from Siberia. We met them in the Mozdok town telephone exchange, where we heard them phoning to their families to boast of their part in capturing the presidential palace. These are professional soldiers, older and much tougher-looking than the conscripts, and dressed in impressive grey camouflage and black berets, not in the usual filthy khaki.

Their mood was far from gung-ho, however. They said that casualties have been high, that a partisan war had already begun and that it would go on for a long time. Vladimir, from Omsk, said: "Your grandchildren will still be reporting this war."

To judge by what they told us, guerrilla attacks are taking place all over many of the Russian-occupied areas of Chechnya. Even the Russian-held northern and western half of Grozny is far from secure in Russian hands. The Spetsnaz (special forces) soldiers spoke of continual sniping and ambushes. In the words of Vyacheslav, 25, "the Chechens are like werewolves. During the day, they look like humans, but at night you are walking among so-called peaceful Chechen civilians and there is not a moment you can be sure you will not get a bullet in the back."

One reason why Chechen fighters were able to be so active behind Russian lines is obvious when you drive into the Chechen-held half of Grozny along the roads from Ingushetia to the west. Russian troops stationed near the Ingushetia border are making no serious effort even to check vehicles. One reason for the laxness was suggested by the fact that every Russian officer we interviewed at these posts one morning was seriously drunk.

Leading article, page 19

Economic links under huge strain, Germany warns Yeltsin

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY will make clear to Russia today that future economic co-operation depends on a firm commitment to democratic reform and the rebuilding of Western confidence lost by the suppression of Chechnya.

Günther Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, travelled yesterday to St Petersburg at the head of a 28-member delegation to set out the political reservations of German business. "We will use the meeting of the German-Russian Co-operation Council to underline to the Russian

Government that its behaviour in Chechnya has put huge strain on its credibility as a partner for reform and democracy," he said.

A similar case was put yesterday by Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, in a meeting in Switzerland with Andrei Kozyrev, his Russian counterpart. Last week Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, again telephoned President Yeltsin and advised him that the West was waiting for a sign from the Kremlin that he was still a political and economic reformer.

"What kind of friend would I be if I left Boris Yeltsin in the lurch now?" the Chancellor asked in reply to criticism during an ill-tempered parliamentary debate on Thursday. Herr Kohl was stung by accusations that he was overlooking the cruelty of Russian actions in Chechnya because of a wish to prop up Mr. Yeltsin. The unhappy balance between, on the one hand, maintaining stable and relatively friendly links between Moscow and Bonn and, on the other, criticising Russian abuse of human rights has been a feature of German Ostpolitik since the 1960s. The fall of communism has not made the dilemma any easier to resolve. Germany, however, has real economic leverage over Russia. Bilateral

economic relations with Russia can be better exploited than those with multilateral institutions.

The International Monetary Fund mission to Moscow last week bore the hallmarks of a black force when the economists complained about the high budgetary costs of the Chechen war, as if accountants could carry out a cost-benefit analysis on using cluster bombs rather than standard artillery shells against the Chechen civilians. Simply, a multilateral financial organisation such as the IMF is ill equipped to speak about human rights issues. However, Russia owes Germany 62 billion marks (£26.5 bil-

lion), 48 billion marks of which is covered by credit guarantees. German commercial banks are owed 12 billion marks. If Germany links its political complaints with economic demands, then Russia has to listen.

"It will be very difficult, very sensitive indeed," Herr Rexrodt agreed before he left for St Petersburg. His approach will be to lump the war and a fear of a new militarised anti-democratic political course with other largely economic obstacles to investment such as incomplete tax policies. Together, he will argue, those factors could tip German business away from Russia.

When asked if the Russian

Balladur offered 'poisoned support'

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

EDOUARD BALLADUR was embroiled in the first real controversy of his French presidential election campaign yesterday after the extreme right-wing National Front offered him an acutely embarrassing declaration of support.

Opponents of France's Gaullist Prime Minister seized on the declaration to suggest that he had concluded a secret deal with Jean-Marie Le Pen, the Front's leader.

Although the Balladur camp swiftly denied the claims, distancing itself from M. Le Pen, it was unable to dispel the impression that the Prime Minister had been dragged off his pedestal into the unflattering arena of electoral politics.

The damage was done in an interview on Saturday in which M. Le Pen, the Front's presidential candidate, spoke of his respect for M. Balladur and described him as a man capable of uniting all Frenchmen. Asked whether the Prime Minister's aides had met his party to discuss electoral pacts, M. Le Pen replied: "Nothing would be more normal."

Berlusconi softens election demand

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

HOPES rose yesterday that Lamberto Dini, the new Italian Prime Minister, will win votes of confidence in parliament for his Government of technocrats after Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon, backed away from a demand for a general election in June.

Signor Berlusconi, who resigned as Prime Minister last month after he was made the subject of a corruption investigation, said on Saturday: "I do not have an electoral obsession" and said he merely hoped that a general election would be held "within a reasonable timeframe".

Signor Dini, who was Treasury Minister in Signor Berlusconi's Government, is to outline his government pro-

gramme in a speech to the Chamber of Deputies today before facing a vote of confidence in the lower house later in the week, to be followed by another vote in the Senate.

Signor Berlusconi and his Forza Italia party had threatened to vote against Signor Dini on the ground that none of the ministers from the previous Government were retained in his Cabinet. But the tycoon softened his tone after it became clear that even his supporters are worried about the prospect of more political instability and further damage to the lira and the Milan Stock Exchange if Signor Dini should be forced to resign. Most Italians would interpret such a defeat for Signor Dini as a cynical act by Signor Berlusconi, a desperate effort to retain power in the wake of the demise of his own Government after nine disastrous months.

Signor Berlusconi added last weekend that he was confident that "a real truce" could be reached, pending an eventual election after urgent economic and institutional reforms are passed.

Signor Dini also has indicated that he will introduce a mini-budget to bring Italy's huge public spending deficit under control. The pension system is also under review.



Dini might survive votes of confidence

Drug chief killed in gun battle

Rio de Janeiro: Flavio "Negao" Pires da Conceicao, reputedly one of the most ruthless leaders of Rio de Janeiro's drug gangs, was killed in a gun battle with police, the police said. A police sergeant also died.

Witnesses said more than 50 members of the police special forces raided the sprawling Vigario Geral shantytown on Saturday and headed straight for Negao's secret hideout. Residents draped black sheets in streets, and shops were closed in mourning for the drug trafficker, who effectively ruled the shantytown.

Mine exodus

Freetown: Foreign staff of an American mine are leaving Sierra Leone after rebels attacked their mine and seized five people. The rebels have promised to release two British hostages "soon". (Reuters)

Skiers 'dead'

Ankara: An American-Turkish military search for a missing US airman and his son, who were on a skiing trip, has been called off. Officials said the pair had probably died in the mountains. (Reuters)

Briton freed

Kabul: Eden Fernandez, the British national who was held captive by an Afghan Shia faction in west Kabul for eight months, has been freed and flown out on a special Red Cross flight. (AFP)

Coach raid

West Covina, California: Three men boarded a coach bound for a Las Vegas casino, donned masks and drew guns ten minutes into the trip and robbed 40 fellow passengers of their betting money. (AFP)

Thin on top

Warsaw: Members of Poland's fringe Bald People's Party began a hunger strike to demand that a new constitution guarantee more top state posts for bald people. The PAP news agency said. (Reuters)

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10,000 back deposed bishop

BY ADAM SAGE

AT LEAST 10,000 Roman Catholics demonstrated in northern France yesterday in a show of support for Mgr Jacques Gaillot, the French bishop dismissed by the Vatican ten days ago.

The size of the demonstration in Evreux, Mgr Gaillot's former diocese, was an indication of the strength of feeling provoked by an affair that has shaken the French clergy. In a message broadcast over loudspeakers at the start of what was described as an "exceptional Mass", Mgr Gaillot spoke of a "shock wave" prompted by the Pope's decision. "This is my most beau-

tiful day as a bishop," he told a congregation estimated at between 10,000 and 30,000. The demonstration illustrated "the aspiration for liberty, for the right to be different, for democracy and the need for debate," he added. "Tomorrow, we will no longer be able to make decisions without taking you into account, whether in church or society."

The Pope is unlikely to see things in the same light. Mgr Gaillot, 59, angered the Vatican with his warnings that only condoms can prevent Aids, his calls for tolerance of homosexuality, for the ordination of married priests and his attacks on the French Government. Worse, the

Bishop of Evreux took his message to the media, appearing on television, giving an interview to the men's magazine, *Lui*, and featuring on Fun Radio, a Paris-based station that makes Radio 1 look high-brow. But if all that disturbed Rome, it won Mgr Gaillot widespread backing in France.

Yesterday, as he arrived at Evreux Cathedral, Mgr Gaillot was applauded by churchgoers who had travelled from all over the country and even, in a few cases, from abroad. Their enthusiasm, however, was not shared by other French bishops, who have been reduced to embarrassed silence.



DANCE
The inimitable Lindsay Kemp will glitter and be androgynous in a new season at Sadler's Wells
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC
Jack Brymer, king of the classical clarinet, marks his 80th birthday with Mozart and Weber at the Barbican
CONCERT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



FILM
Americans find that things are rather different in Barcelona. Walt Stillman's new comedy
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
A Machiavelli for our times? Michael Dobbs reveals the ultimate fate of Francis Urquhart in *The Final Cut*
IN THE SHOPS: Today
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Lights make Hands work

Since leaving the RSC, Terry Hands has been busy. Now he's back in London, and back with Shakespeare, Alan Franks reports

Having admitted that he is not one of nature's freelance directors, freelance director Terry Hands adds that he is glad not to be running the National Theatre. The question arises simply because he happens to be working there at present, and because he was for 25 years a company man to his fingertips at the Royal Shakespeare Company, first as associate director and later as chief executive. Even after three years away from a full-time life at the Barbican, the more juxtaposition of Hands and National sounds strange, as though there has been some confusion with the press releases.

Hands is across the water on the South Bank in order to direct *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The choice of play makes his journey circular, since this was the first Shakespeare that he directed at the RSC, in 1968. It is among the most popular plays with audiences, and is generally thought to have been written in a fortnight at the behest of Queen Elizabeth. Having seen the two parts of *Henry IV*, the story runs, she had become something of a Falstaff groupie and wanted to see how the fat knight fared in love. This character, bold enough to draw Robert Stephens for the RSC *Henry* three years ago, now claims Denis Quilley.

When I left the RSC, Hands says, "I was a 'working' one, or an administrative one. I had worked with Peter Brook in the 1960s, and part of me wanted to get back to doing that sort of thing. I went to [the former] East Germany and did a play that involved circus performers, elephants, tigers and bears. He has also directed his own translation of *Hamlet* in Paris, opera in Bremen, the Anthony Sher *Tamara* back at the RSC, and plans working visits to Brussels and Norway this year.

When Richard Eyre approached him to direct at the National, preferably something 17th-century, large and bustling enough to fill the Olivier stage, Hands reasoned that as he had recently done a string of plays dealing with psychosis, serial murder and genocide and the like, a rumbustious comedy sounded just the job.

Merry Wives is the only Shakespeare comedy set explicitly in England, and has a strong, largely bucolic appeal for Hands. Being an internationalist has in no way diluted the Anglophile in him: if anything, the reverse. He speaks with romance and large-gestured passion about the joys of returning to the sceptred isle, "where compromise is a virtue, not a fault, where ambiguity is not necessarily viewed as a negative, and where language is variously spelt because its origins are aural, not literary". Paris may offer such genuine joys as dented cars, rude waiters, and smells that cannot be imagined in London, but even Racine and Corneille cower beside Shakespeare's sublime heights.

He says that immediately after leaving the RSC he was a "little demob-happy". "I wasn't really sure what aspects of company life I would miss. I can say for certain that I do not miss the endless, endless begging for money. But I do miss seeing people develop over three or five years or, for example, huring Nick Hytner away from opera. Although you inevitably enjoy great liberty as a freelance, you can't say that such-and-such a member of your cast would be perfect for a particular part in a particular play, which someone else could then direct."

At 54, Hands is still producing children as well as plays, his young pest having been born post-Barbican. From his dress, and his gait, not to mention his unblinded advocacy of theatre subsidy, you might think that rumours of the end of the 1960s had been exaggerated. He abhors the late 1980s quite as much as you would expect, and ruefully lists what he regards as casualties in the war against Thatcherism.

"By the middle and end of that decade, when the whole macho-manager fraud had got under way, subsidies were cut as 'not productive', and the Theatre in Education schemes were reduced. So what we



Terry Hands and Maureen Beattie in rehearsal for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which opens this week at the Olivier theatre in London

are now seeing, inevitably, is not only a diminution in the size of the theatre-going public, but also a reduction in the levels of basic training in what to expect when they do go. By and large, when you see a musical, you don't require help in making sense of it. But if you are going to *Othello*, the chances are that you do."

As for *Merry Wives*, he considers it not only an immensely rich comedy, but also fascinating for the light it sheds on Shakespeare's other writing during the first few years of the 17th century. As for the notion that Shakespeare ran it up in a fortnight, Hands believes that is not out of the question. "But I think we have to be careful about this. There was in Shakespeare's company repertoire, a few years before, a play called *A Jealous Comedy*, which has not come down to us. My guess is that they got this out, made the seducer Falstaff, kept the Ford figure, worked it up, then hurled it on.

"One legend is that he took the part of George Page, and I find that quite plausible. We know that at that time he took the part of the ghost in *Hamlet*, and he, like Ford, turns up when the play is going wrong, or about to go wrong. So he could well have given himself some kind of supervisory role. He also had a daughter who was courted by a doctor, and this part of *Merry Wives* is to some extent his own story. In the same way, you can't do *Hamlet* and not know that its author had a son of that name, who died. Certainly there would have been an emotional truth in *Merry Wives* which they could all relate to, and make use of. It may have been written as a comedy, but it was chronologically quite close to *Othello*, and there are elements that show a deep preoccupation with those same themes of jealousy."

● *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is in preview at the Olivier Theatre, SE1 (0171-928 2252), and opens on Thursday

Smarrast Central, but not in these hands. *Night Music* came to life in a delightful piece of illustrative performance in which Jackson introduced "The Man who wrote *Danny Boy*" by recounting his efforts to find out why "Danny Boy" is his favourite song. He talked us emmerthly through the classic ballad, explaining its modulations and minor chords like the hip music teacher you never had. Lessons continue tonight in Bristol.

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POP: Paul Sexton enjoys an entertaining music lesson from a versatile veteran

Man of many different notes

work of classical overtones that bears little relation to any of his previous incarnations as new waver, Forties revivalist, pop balladeer or film scorer. But Hands' music was certainly ready for Joseph's coat of many colours. He remains

an unlikely success on stage, overcoming his natural reticence and using sympathetic musicians to create an engagingly relaxed review of his now-panoramic background. Opening alone at the piano with "Home Town", he then asked: "You don't really know what to expect tonight, do you? Well, I don't know what to expect from you either, so we're even."

But we had a pretty good idea: Jackson is not the type to assume a fresh creative stance to the exclusion of his past

endeavours, so the new material was well complemented by songs from the days when he was a more favoured flavour. "Real Men", for example, was dedicated to Newt Gingrich, whom he memorably described as "like John Major, but in colour".

Accompanied by a three-piece including his faithful bassist Graham Maby, Jackson revisited 1991's *Laughter & Lust* and later tripped back to his jumpin' jive phase for Louis Jordan's "What's the Use of Getting Sober?"

He retains his policy of constantly rearranging his best-known material and cranked his most audacious trick yet, starting "Is She Really Going Out With Him", pausing to chide the audience over its lamentable time-keeping, then substituting the vocal of "It's Different for Girls" and weaving the two hits together. It could have been a trip to

Joe Jackson
Apollo, W6

COVENT Garden's dancing star, Irak Mukhamedov, is following in the footsteps of the late Rudolf Nureyev by starring in *The King and I*. Mukhamedov will play the Siamese despot for three performances in a new production in May, part of the Covent Garden Festival. Nureyev enjoyed mixed fortunes in the part made famous by Yul Brynner when he starred in a 1959 American staging. The reviews were bad, but the pay cheque was good — a reputed \$1 million.

● THAT feisty television detective, Helen Mirren, will make her Broadway debut in the spring in *A Month In The Country*, the Turgenyev play in

which she won great acclaim in the West End last year. Mirren decided against taking to New York Bill Bryden's London production of *Month In The Country*. Instead, the new Roundabout Theatre staging will be by Scott Ellis. Opening night is April 20.

● COULD the sudden British success of French-Canadian star Céline Dion — her single "Think Twice" and album *The Colour Of My Love* are now both in the Top Three — be taken as a further indication of Radio 1's waning influence? The station was reluctant to put Dion's song, a stately

ballad, on its playlist. Then sustained support from the independents took it to No 2. Dion, 25, newly married to her 53-year-old manager, took time out from her honeymoon to perform the song on last week's *Top of The Pops*.

● TEENAGE heart-throb and occasional West End leading man Michael Ball is being tipped to join Patti LaPave in *Passion*, the latest Stephen Sondheim musical, which is due to reach London in August. The show would give Ball a second chance at Sondheim, following the aborted West End production last year of *Putting It Together*, cancelled due to injuries to its star, Carol Burnet.

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CONCERTS: Birthday songs; and Boulez

Carolling the party line

THE Academic Festival Overture seemed a perverse choice for the opening item of a concert designed to celebrate a choir's twenty-first birthday. While stuffing it with student choruses, Brahms unequivocally excluded the voices that might have sung them. Such musical reflections were dramatically interrupted when, towards the end of the work, the CBSO Chorus got to its feet and joined in the climax on "Gaudemus igitur" with as much conviction as if it were the finale of the Choral Symphony.

The CBSO's principal guest conductor, Mark Elder, has both an authoritative and a sympathetic way with a chorus, as we were to hear later in Rachmaninov's *The Bells*. In the meantime the chorus director, Simon Halley, took his place to conduct more Brahms and some part-songs by Mendelssohn. It was the latter that were actually the perverse choice of the evening. Having sung in student Latin in "Gaudemus igitur" and in German in Brahms's Songs with Horns and Harp, a British choir on a special occasion might have expected to sing at least one piece in English — and, indeed, to perform something from its own lifetime rather than from the prehistoric days of Mendelssohn's association with Birmingham.

CBSO/Elder
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

True, Mendelssohn's unaccompanied church music is a rigorous and rewarding test of a choir's technique, which the CBSO Chorus successfully passed in spite of the imbalance in number and quality between male and female voices. But for sheer gratification of the senses, the combination of soprano and alto voices with horn and harp sounds in Brahms's Op 17 was most skilfully and persuasively presented.

Three of the four movements of *The Bells* feature a soloist. The exception is the third, "Alarm Bells", where the chorus has the vocal interest to itself and where, under Mark Elder's direction on this occasion, it sang with particularly impressive rhythmic and harmonic precision. The breadth of colour displayed here was wide enough for any one chorus but — in support of Bonaventura Bottone, Susan Bullock, and Alastair Miles — it was expanded still further elsewhere, from the silver brilliance of the opening to the heavy melancholy at the end.

GERALD LARNER

Masterly advice

ACHIEVEMENT takes a discipline and dedication that can sometimes seem like arrogance, aloofness or severity. These are the burdens still hung around Pierre Boulez's neck, even after a lifetime devoted to making exquisitely beautiful things of his own, to showing others' things in their best light through his highly crafted conducting, and to enabling others to make their own exquisitely beautiful things through the auspices of France's centre for contemporary music, IRCAM. He does not compromise. It would be a pity in a world full of artistic compromise if he ever did.

Last Thursday Boulez opened his 70th birthday celebrations, and his ten-day residency with the London Symphony Orchestra, with a public conducting masterclass that will have removed any lingering doubts from the minds of the large throng present about his remarkable abilities. Three young conductors — Harry Curtis and Martin West, both in their mid-twenties, and Ilan Volkov, only 18 — were put through their paces in Stravinsky's *Song of the Nightingale*, in the first movement of Boulez's own *Notations*, and in the second of Webern's *Six Pieces for Orchestra*, Op 6.

Boulez Masterclass
Barbican

All treated the music confidently and lucidly. All submitted to this public examination of their shortcomings gamely and modestly. All, if they take note of and rehearse what Boulez had to tell them, will make good careers.

What he said was the expected mixture. He stressed the importance of achieving a real sense of communication with the players (and with the LSO he certainly has a good rapport), of carefully listening and adjusting balance and timbre, of being ahead of the score and of knowing it thoroughly, of cultivating complete independence of the hands, of measuring the amplitude of every gesture precisely, of analysing the music's structure not for any dry academic purpose but in order to clarify it for the audience.

And there was something else which perhaps his sterner critics might not have expected. Be yourself, he commanded. Show the orchestra, and the music, your own personality rather than simply behaving like a machine.

STEPHEN PETTITT

FEELICITY KENDAL
MARGARET HYZACK
ART MAJIK
LOUI STOPPARD'S
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Designer: Timothy O'Brien
Music: Guy Woolfenden

THE FAIREST ISLAND FLING.

20TH CENTURY SCOTS ARE COMPOSERS OF THE WEEK.
MONDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY. 9:00AM-10:00AM.

Fairest Isle

Vaccines of the future may come from plants □ Preventing another Hillsborough □ Why the sands have fallen silent



SOON holiday-makers anxious to avoid catching malaria may be urged to go away and eat their greens. Tom Turpen, a biologist from California, has shown that an anti-malaria vaccine can be produced in the leaves of tobacco plants infected with a genetically modified virus. Ultimately, he suggests, it may be possible to protect against some diseases simply by eating the leaves of vaccine-producing plants — though not, presumably, tobacco.

For the moment, he is happy to have shown how effective plants may be as sources of vaccine. Dr Turpen, who works for the company Bioscience Technologies, of Vacaville, worked in collaboration with three scientists from the malaria programme of the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

They report their results in the same issue of *Biotechnology* as a team from the Institute for Plant Genetics and Tissue Culture in Gatersleben, Germany, who have

A green way to health



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

used tobacco to produce an enzyme, xylanase, which is widely used in the paper and food industries.

The striking thing about the experiments is the large quantities of biological materials that can be produced at very low cost. Dr Turpen estimates that a hectare of tobacco plants could produce 250 kilograms of vaccine a month. "Plants are an incredibly inexpensive source of protein, so for vaccines required on a large scale they are an appropriate but unexplored option," he says.

Dr Stephen Hoffman, of the

Institute, started by identifying proteins on the surface of the malaria parasite that trigger an immune response in humans. They then created synthetic genes containing the recipe for making these proteins. Armed with the gene, Dr Turpen and colleagues inserted it into tobacco mosaic virus, and then infected tobacco plants with the modified virus.

The result was a plant that made the protein. To extract it, Dr Turpen ground up the leaves and separated out the protein by centrifuge or filter. He has since shown that the protein

does, indeed, provoke an immune response against the parasite when tested in a mouse.

A similar technique was used by the German workers, who report that every 100 milligrams of fresh tobacco leaf produces 37 micrograms of the enzyme. They also showed that the plants suffered no ill-effects from creating this foreign protein. Tobacco was chosen as the vehicle in both cases because it is well-understood and widely used as a test-bed — the fruit fly of plant biotechnology.

These two groups are not alone in researching the virtues of plant-derived vaccines. A group at Texas A&M, *New Scientist* reports, have grown plants that produce a possible vaccine against hepatitis B, while researchers at the John Innes Centre, in Norwich, are testing a plant-derived vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease.

The ultimate, of course, would be a vaccine that could be taken simply by eating the plants it had been grown in. Dr Turpen is examining ways of using edible plants to make anti-cholera vaccines. That would avoid the process of extraction, and the plants could be grown almost anywhere.

Crowd safety



A NEW computer-based system has been developed to avert disasters like that at the Hillsborough football stadium.

Researchers from King's and University Colleges in London have developed the system, which uses images from surveillance cameras and sounds an alarm at the first sign of overcrowding.

Trials have already taken place at Heathrow Airport and at King's Cross and Liverpool Street stations in London, and Dr Sergio Velastin, one of the system's originators, is encouraged by the results. "In the long-term, the chances of an incident on the scale of Hillsborough ever happening again should be drastically reduced," he says.

Closed-circuit TV cameras are now common in places where crowds gather, but operators may get so bored looking at their screens that they miss a dangerous situation developing.

The computer first digitises the image into a grid of more than a quarter of a million picture elements, or pixels. It then compares this with a reference image containing no people, and labels each pixel as either part of the crowd or part of the background.

The number of people appearing in the image is then assumed to be proportional to the number of pedestrian pixels. When the density reaches a pre-set limit, an alarm alerts the operator.

On song



ONCE, there were beaches around the world whose main claim to fame was their singing sands.

People striding out across the beach would be accompanied by a steady chirping sound which has been compared to the music of the koto, or Japanese harp.

Singing sands seem far less common than they once were, and Japanese researcher Shigeo Miwa thinks he knows why. At a

symposium held in Japan recently he said that microscopic pollutants, including dust, soil, oil and chemical detergents, have silenced the beaches.

On a visit to Pensacola Beach in Florida in 1992, Dr Miwa took a sample of sand. The sand there is 99.7 pure silica quartz, the type that ought to sing like a canary. But Dr Miwa reported that it was silent until he had boiled it for 40 minutes in clean water to remove pollutants. That did the trick — the *nakizumi*, as the Japanese call it, was restored to full voice.

Singing sand beaches were fairly common around the world before the 1940s, but many have been choked by erosion, acid rain and chemicals that dilute the high quartz content responsible for producing the sound, Dr Miwa said.

The sample is now on display at the Niwa Sand Museum in southern Japan, a place that sounds like a joke but almost certainly isn't. There are now plans by the Florida-Japan Institute of the University of West Florida to set up a similar display in Pensacola. Look to your laurels, Disney-world.

Will we ever make sense of awareness?

Books about consciousness, popular or technical, sober or polemical, appear at a gathering pace. Their authors often arrive with imposing reputations from other intellectual arenas. Among recent contributors to the discussion, Francis Crick started out by determining the structure of DNA. Gerald Edelman made a path-breaking contribution to immunology and Sir Roger Penrose is an eminent mathematician.

Is their fascination with consciousness akin to Isaac Newton's interest in theology, a diversion for brilliant minds once the thirst for solvable problems has been quenched? Or has there been real growth in our understanding of the nature of awareness?

To make real progress we need to know what we mean by "consciousness". What do I have in mind if I say that you are conscious? I imply, at least, you are awake, capable of enjoying experience and, as a rule, capable of responding to it. This is consciousness in the sense of "vigilance" or "arousal". I may imply that you are enjoying experience of a certain kind with its own subjective feel, a shiver of pleasure or a pang of pain. This is consciousness as the content of awareness. We sometimes use

Dr Adam Zeman on how scientists are trying to unravel the mystery of consciousness

the word in a third extended sense, to encompass our capacity for knowledge of all kinds. Most of this knowledge is unconscious — in the second sense — most of the time.

Our capacity for awareness, and the experience it allows us to enjoy, are fundamental to the value we place on our lives. The prolongation of human life, where one can be certain that consciousness is lost forever, is generally regarded as a wasted effort. Consciousness matters.

Armed with a rough definition we can rejoin the main issue: have we learnt anything new about consciousness? Taking a long view of the research of the past century, there have been undeniable advances.

The realisation in the 1920s that it is possible to record the local electrical activity of the brain from the scalp — the

EEG — led to a series of discoveries which have clarified the neurological basis of waking, sleep and many disorders of consciousness, in particular epilepsy.

While the EEG drew attention to concealed rhythms underlying our conscious states, work with brain-injured patients and experimental animals indicated that the rhythms are controlled by the brain stem, the apex of the spinal cord tucked in at the base of the skull. On present knowledge, death of the brain stem, and the loss of the activating system it contains, destroys forever the capacity for consciousness.

Anaesthetists are expert in the temporary theft of consciousness, and have developed an armoury of drugs with which to accomplish this. There is detailed knowledge of the action of some of these drugs, for example morphine and related opiates. Establishing the steps by which the remainder subvert awareness is an important future goal.

These discoveries have illuminated the capacity for consciousness. There have been comparable advances in the understanding of its content. I wrote here recently (*The Times*, November 28) about the numerous maps of the visual world which have been identified in the cerebral cortex. Each takes a specialised interest in an aspect of the visual world, for example colour and movement. The rich and coherent image we enjoy when we open our eyes is the unlikely creation of parallel activity in as many as 30



Galatea of the Spheres, by Salvador Dali: our brains produce a complex neural music

have taken a major step towards defining its biological basis. Techniques allowing us to do so are now at hand.

One other striking feature of awareness has attracted much recent research. You were probably unaware of the pressure of your foot on the floor — until you read this sentence. Attention, by its nature, is selective. It is becoming possible to specify the brain networks which regulate this faculty, which is, at least, the sentry at the gate of consciousness.

There is no simple compelling theory of consciousness. But most current proposals for such a synthesis emphasise the prodigious interconnectedness of the brain, the source of an almost infinitely complex neural music.

Crick's recent book, *The Astonishing Hypothesis: scientific search for the soul* (Simon & Schuster, £15.99) closes, half-seriously, with a very specific hypothesis, detailing the cell type and brain layers he suspects of supporting consciousness. Edelman's more abstract proposal in *Bright Air, Brilliant Fire: on the matter of the mind* (Penguin, £7.99) argues for the

importance of "a special set of relationships between perception, concept formation and memory". Penrose, in *Shadows of the Mind: search for the missing science of consciousness* (OUP, £16.99), looks to fundamental developments in basic physics to provide the basis for a new science of consciousness.

Will the gradual advance of our understanding of the brain lead to a really satisfying explanation of awareness? Philosophers in the mould of Daniel Dennett, author of *Consciousness Explained*, are confident that it will. In their view the problem of consciousness goes no deeper than the "problem", say, of breathing.

Others believe that the kind of work I have described misses the point entirely — that the gulf between events in a brain and what passes in a mind remains as mysterious as ever. Colin McGinn, in particular, has argued that we shall never, can never, make sense of the distillation of experience from the brain.

This debate is as old as human thought and there's plenty of life in it yet. But we are surely a little closer now to understanding the physical basis of mind.

Dr Adam Zeman is a neurologist at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, and the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.



Gerald Edelman: immunologist with an abstract explanation of awareness



Sir Roger Penrose: mathematician fascinated by the conscious



Francis Crick: from discovering DNA structure to detailing brain layers

A fisherman's spy in the sky

Nick Nuttall reports on the latest ship-to-shoal satellite

For centuries, fishermen have looked for birds feeding and colour changes on the surface of the sea to help them to pin-point catches. In May, the satellite SeaStar will be launched from Cape Canaveral to bring the latest technology to their aid.

From a vantage hundreds of miles above the Earth, it is designed to "see" tell-tale shadows and hues in the oceans which may indicate shoals or fish on the surface. Its sensors can also detect warm ocean currents and the blues of algae upon which some species, such as sardines, depend.

Scientists have already found that existing heat-seeking satellites can pin-point promising fishing grounds. For example, bluefin tuna seem to prefer waters with a temperature range between 18C and 20C, whereas the best catches of yellowfin tuna are in sea water between 21C and 24C.

SeaStar promises to make fish detection even more sophisticated. David Bestwick, of the Vega Group, a firm based in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, said that it planned to combine the existing and SeaStar information and beam bulletins to fishermen at sea on the best places to put down their nets.



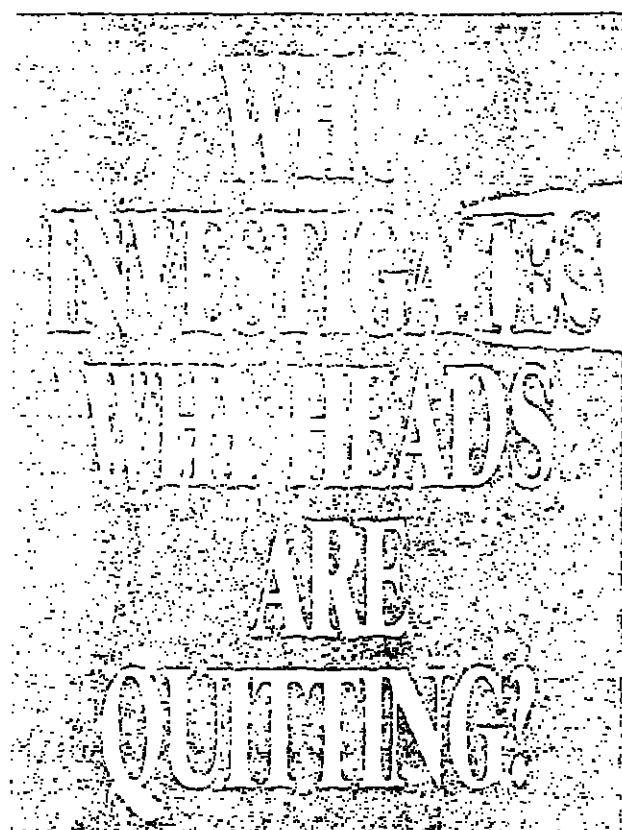
SeaStar target a shoal of fish

The service, called Starfish, is being developed by British companies and bodies including Vega, the Natural Environment Research Council, the British National Space Centre and Fishtec, a fishing consultancy with headquarters in London.

But what about the pressure on world fish stocks? John Eddom, a former trawler skipper now working for Fishtec, recognises that the power and increased efficiency of the new technology may be harmful for some stocks unless it is carefully used. The Starfish service will be offered only to boats that also install satellite surveillance systems.

These will beam back via satellite a fishing vessel's location and a unique identity code to fisheries protection staff. They can then check if the boat is fishing illegally.

The surveillance satellites can swiftly tell if a vessel has put out nets by checking if it has slowed down to about two knots or becomes stationary. "For fishermen there is an awful lot to be gained from this but whether it is good for the fish and fish stocks remains to be seen," Mr Eddom says. "Starfish has to be part of a surveillance system if it is not going to do more damage."



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Lord of the markets

Martin Ivens
meets a man who
has masterminded
radical assaults on
the British State for
40 years — with
enormous success

Britain's most dangerous revolutionary is deceptively nice. He has the manner of a kindly, mildly eccentric Edwardian gentleman; he wears flamboyant waistcoats and sports even more flamboyant hats. Shrouded in the smoke that billows from his pipe, his merry eyes burning like coals, he reminds me of nothing so much as Gandalf, the good wizard from the *Lord of the Rings*, created by another Edwardian gent, J.R.R. Tolkien. But for all that he still is a deadly enemy of democracy.

"Ralph", the name given to him by his fellow conspirators, or Lord Harris of High Cross as the world knows him, could afford to sit back and rest on his destructive achievements. Central planning now lies in ruins, incomes policy is an abandoned wreck and Britain's nationalised industries have been annihilated. But Ralph and his grimly determined comrades, Arthur Seldon, are urging their disciples at the Institute of Economic Affairs on to ever more furious assaults on the State.

"I am very critical of democracy," says Ralph, the perpetual subversive who has just turned a spry 70. "Politics has meant unlimited democracy and unlimited claims on national income." I look over my shoulder but no policeman rushes into the Palm Court of the Waldorf Hotel to arrest him. For, as Chesterton observed in *The Man who was Thursday*, if you bellow your views from the rooftops, the British will regard you as a crank not a threat to the body politic.

Ralph, of course, owes allegiance not to democracy as it is vulgarly understood but to the market. His revolutionary Bible is Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*. "The market is a perpetual referendum. I was taught that by Lord (Lionel) Robbins. The market, however, can cater for even the faintest minorities — those who like fancy waistcoats (here he jabs a finger at his own maroon affair) or the collected words of Ted Heath."

"Market failure?" sports Ralph. "What about government failure? What about whole industries brought to destruction by government policies. What about the National Plan?" he asks indignantly. He has a point. Even the Labour Party now says planning is strictly for the birds and talks enthusiastically about markets. But it was not always so.

The Institute was founded in 1984 to counteract the influence of the Fabian Society. But it was successive crises on the home front, caused by the strain of financing two world wars, which brought state control into common Whitehall practice. Many of the keenest



Ralph Harris: at the IEA he provided a sanctuary for academics afraid to talk out loud about their "cranky" notions of economic liberalism

minds in Britain deplored the excesses of the Nazi and communist dictatorships, but regarded their ability to combat the effects of the Great Depression as superior to that of the capitalist democracies. It was a view widely held in the Conservative and Liberal parties as well as Labour.

Two catchphrases summed up the mood of the time: "The man in Whitehall knows best," said Douglas Jay of the newly triumphant Labour Party which nationalised heavy industries after the war, while even Conservatives agreed: "We are all socialists now."

The counter-attack by economic liberals got off to a chequered start. In 1944, when the great liberal economist Friedrich von Hayek published *The Road to Serfdom*, his polemical account of how socialism would lead to a progressive loss of liberty, it instantly became an intellectual sensation. But when Churchill took up the theme in exaggerated fashion in his notorious "Gestapo" speech during

the 1945 election campaign and went down to catastrophic defeat, the future of economic liberals in all parties looked bleak. The Conservatives concluded on their return to power five years later that appeasement of the trade unions and the mixed economy were here to stay.

It was Hayek who commanded an old Estonian dairy farmer, Anthony Fisher, to renounce all hopes of a political career, to make money and to join with others in forming a scholarly research organisation to supply intellectuals in universities, schools and journalism and broadcasting with authoritative studies of the economic theory of markets and its application to practical affairs. According to plan, Fisher went on to build up a fortune in a broiler chicken business and formally created the IEA in 1955 with the help of a Liberal, Oliver Smedley.

The work of running the institute was given to "two, nice working-class lads", as Ralph from Totten-

ham likes to describe himself and Arthur, the poor Jewish boy from the East End. Although both had distinguished academic careers behind them, Ralph and Arthur retained an unsuitability, an air, almost, of innocence.

Richard Cockett's excellent history of postwar think-tanks, *Thinking the Unthinkable*, shows how ideas about privatisation, reform of trade unions and even the invention of parking meters were dreamed up in succinct, easy-to-read IEA Hobart papers disseminated in all the right places. The institute also provided a sanctuary for academics afraid to talk out loud about their "cranky" notions of economic liberalism. But even Cockett cannot quite capture the human factor which made their contribution so valuable. Niceness is a quality not to be underestimated. Cheerful Ralph and conscientious Arthur were not to be resisted.

Ever the sincere evangelist, Ralph is at pains to stress he is

propagating no flimsy-hearted creed. A practising Anglican, he is at pains to stress that what Samuel Britan calls "self-chosen purpose" is highly moral. "Adam Smith wrote taking a Christian view based on the Ten Commandments. The *Theory of Moral Sentiments* preceding *The Wealth of Nations* set up a high ideal of our conduct as if our acts and thoughts were being observed by an impartial spectator." His bugbear is the bishops who tell him he is preaching a greed-is-good message when he believes that a free society is underpinned by individual moral responsibility.

Our interview over, we walk across the Aldwych. Lord Harris of High Cross is off to the Savoy for the Pipe-smoker of the Year award. "Tony Benn won it last year," he says. "He gave a damned fine speech."

In honour of Ralph Harris' 70th birthday the IEA has produced a collection of his journalism. No, Prime Minister (EO).

MPs' families should not be dragged in

Would the wives kindly leave the political stage

Politicians are looking younger all the time. We 1950s children can now point to quite eminent ministerial figures and reminisce happily about what prats they were at 19. It is strange to admit that you no longer belong to the cheeky generation-in-waiting: those are my contemporaries up there, making a fist of it. We are the fossils now.

If you are reading this from the haughty moral height of 25 years old, remember: you too will one day spot some moth-eaten old timeserver flanneling away on television, and realise with a shock that he is your age; or worse, your old flatmate. My own lot seem to specialise in minor sleaze: it is alarming to see someone wriggling around on the cash-for-questions pin when you remember borrowing his copy of a new magazine called *Private Eye*, to giggle about Harold Wilson and Kagan and the Lavender List. No body learns from history.

But some things do change, or ought to, with moving generations. Yesterday a barrister called Cherie Booth was exposed in *The Independent on Sunday* as having represented a Lancashire council against a penniless poll-tax defaulter, and advocated his return to prison. Moreover, the same Ms Booth, 15 months ago, delivered a paper to a conference of the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation Officers on liability and commitment of debtors. This story, which in other circumstances could only have merited the dashing headline "Barrister does ordinary if rather depressing job", was front page news because Ms Booth is married to Tony Blair.

So up pops a campaigning clergyman, saying: "I understood that the Labour Party stood for justice", as if it had proved it didn't; the newspaper condemns her as "unwise", especially over the confederacy — even though it happened when John Smith was alive and well and some of us still thought Tony Blair was a footballer. It stinks.

Not Ms Booth's conduct of her job; on that, no comment. Barristers often argue causes they dislike, and the balance between their private and professional principles is uniquely tricky. If she had defended a murderer who proved guilty, would she have been condemned? No: what really stinks is the use of wives as political props at all. So, with the rise of the first generation in which a great many married women are serious professionals, it must stop.

We must give up the infantile practice of demanding two for one. We need intelligent admin-

istrators, not film stars or role models. Short of major crime or corruption, politicians' families are an irrelevance. When a surgeon is about to cut me open, I do not ask to see a photograph of his children. I neither know nor care whether the man who is selling me a computer system is gay or straight: only whether the stuff works. My children's headmaster's wife, as it happens, is a model of philanthropic decorum, displaying quietly impeccable dress sense; but frankly, as long as he was doing a good job he could shack up with anything from a fireman to a fan-dancer and it would be none of my business.

We have to grow up and judge Mr Blair and the rest by their deeds and ideas only. For some politicians that will be a deprivation: they will have to stop using their families as window-dressing. No more homely supportive Normas, no affable Denises or banner-waving Glenysies; not unless they are doing it in their own right. We must relieve wives of the task of shopping with Mrs Yeltsin while the husbands confer. Let researchers and aides provide the "atmosphere dimension" for parties if they must. Let constituency wives get on with their own lives, unless their MP husband formally hires them as PA. The men do just that. Free the women, now!

It could be that the politicalwife business has flourished out of control because of 15 years' of Conservative power. Tory wives are perhaps more likely to be willing and passive appendages to their husbands' careers: they tend to have the income for it, and some are still close to the old country culture that thought it normal for wives to take their husband's identity. Labour families are less able to afford such a life, their women less likely to put up with it.

Yet Labour stupidly bought into the idea, and is much to blame for presenting Tony Blair as a package. She cooperated by sitting on the platform at the party conference doing the Nancy Reagan adoring stare at him, and holding hands in public. Maybe now, with Tony Blair at the trickiest moment of his leadership, needing every ounce of nerve over Clause Four, they see the trap they fell into. If we are to have a Labour government with ministers in their forties and their wives in real jobs, attitudes must change.

I wish to help. I hereby solemnly pledge to the nation my total, principled, deliberate lack of interest in any political spouse.



LIBBY PURVES

Rachel Kelly meets a young musician with looks, glamour and an whirling publicity machine

How to lose your fiddle and find fame

The minute her £200,000 violin was stolen last week, the world woke up to Vanessa-Mae Nicholson. Overnight, she became our most famous young classical musician. In between footage recounting the theft of her 1761 Italian-made Guadagnini, *News at Ten* slipped shots of the glamorous half-Thai, half-Singaporean at play.

Vanessa-Mae herself gave good, quotable copy. The violin, she said, was not just an antique, she had a relationship with it. "It's called Gismo after the nice furry creature in the film, *Gremlins*. I felt this morning as if my pet had died."

Her publicity machine whirled in the hope of alerting auction houses and dealers and stopping the thieves reselling their ill-gotten gains. But a cynic might have noted a postscript. The reports also mentioned EMI's release of Vanessa-Mae's first single, the Bach Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. Traumatic though the theft clearly was, it has had the unintended result of attracting much more interest than most musical launches have managed.

Previously, Vanessa-Mae's fame had been confined to a fairly select coterie of classical musical lovers. Her talent is not in question. Michael Gough Matthews, former director of the Royal College of Music, describes her as a "true child prodigy". "What she has," he says, "like Mozart

and Mendelssohn, is maturity beyond her years."

Vasko Vassilev, concertmaster at Covent Garden and former concertmaster at the Opéra de Lyon, says: "There are thousands of young violinists with wonderful technique, but they do not have her spirituality. For this, you have to go back to Jascha Heifetz, Yehudi Menuhin and Fritz Kreisler."

Her violin teacher and Professor of Music at the Royal College of Music, Dr Felix Andrievsky, says: "She looks like she was born with a violin."

In fact, she began to play the piano at three and the violin at five. At eight she won the British Young Pianist of the Year prize, but decided to concentrate on the violin. She spent six months in Peking perfecting her technique. Aged ten, she recorded her first concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra. At 12, she was touring the world with the London Mozart Players. By 14 she had recorded the Tchaikovsky and Beethoven violin concertos.

She is now 16. This new single sees her play the Toccata and Fugue rearranged in funky form by the pop producer Mike Batt, better known for his work with Simon and Garfunkel. Later in the month she will launch an album of ten pieces, including one composed by her which she describes as a "techno-acoustic fusion" — bastardised class-



Vanessa-Mae Nicholson: like Mozart, a true child prodigy

cal musical to you and me — though she dislikes the term and prefers to talk about a "new style of music".

An exceptional musical track record, clearly. But many other bright young musicians have similar credits and commitment to their name. Vanessa-Mae also has looks, glamour, a wealthy and sophisticated background, and now EMI promoting her

first single. She is photographed on the front cover emerging from the sea in Ibiza in a see-through white dress.

We met in a basement bar in Kensington. She is exceptionally pretty, attracting admiring glances from ageing popstars in the bar like Peter Gabriel. Her jeans are Levis, her jacket Ralph Lauren, her top Jean Paul Gaultier, her coat Donna Karan.

She was born in Singapore, the daughter of a Thai mother and a Singaporean father. Her mother, a pianist and lawyer, remarried an English solicitor, Graham Nicholson.

Vanessa-Mae has now adopted him as her father and remains an only child. Life has ever been privileged. Brought up in Kensington, she went to private schools. Now she winters in St Moritz and jet-sets in summer. She holds birthday parties at Planet Hollywood. She has a business manager and personal office of three to organise her schedule. She has the confidence and sophistication of a 16-year-old going on 26.

There is a ready-prepared and fluent answer to every question, in keeping with a girl who is taking four A levels and obtained nothing lower than a B in her seven GCSEs.

Not for her a life of simply repeating a classical repertoire. "I was born and bred a classical musician," she says. "But as soon as I was ease with the classical violin repertoire, I wanted to do more. I want to take the violin a step further, to do something more, to interpret original composers."

She says the Beatles are as much an influence as Beethoven. She loves Paganini, with whom she shares a birthday, but cites the Gypsy Kings and Santana as favoured composers. She talks as though she might have just read a *How to Succeed* book, using phrases such as "because I set my own goals". Her next aim is to launch her single worldwide before work on another record. "I know I want to do music with a very strong rhythm," she says. Her greatest happiness though, would be the return of her violin. For a moment she looks as vulnerable as any other 16-year-old.

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Matthew Parris



Sometimes it can be highly politic not to correct people's erroneous impressions

This column comes to you thanks to the US scientific base at Palmer Station, Antarctica. But to begin at the beginning... Over Christmas, Hong Kong's newspapers featured the sad case of "Dr" Poon. Poon was working at the university under what was found to be an assumed doctorate. He was sacked. Many readers of *The South China Morning Post* will have felt a measure of sympathy towards poor Poon. When he applied for his post he had been studying for a postgraduate degree at an American university. He had been told his thesis was proceeding well. His doctorate, he thought, was assured. Sketching out his CV, the hapless Poon anticipated its arrival. He landed the Hong Kong job. He was performing well at it. Then—disaster. The doctorate did not materialise. Poon said nothing, but carried on working.

Reader, hesitate before you condemn. The unlucky Poon was guilty first of hope, then of a slight inaccuracy of the kind that would make him a fine Diary editor on Fleet Street, and lastly of silence. Are there no worse sins?

Take mine. I have been pretending to be an MP for years. I recommend this to all readers of *The Times*. MPs get excellent service. People think you have the power to make a great song and dance if displeased. Now the world will quickly rumble a fake duke, and can sense immediately when a chap is unlikely to be a dustman. A few simple questions will unmask a bogus electrical engineer. But no want of delicacy, no depth of vulgarity, no excess of ignorance, no, not even the wildest shores of lunacy can be allowed in evidence that someone has not been elected to Parliament. In no sense does the honour instill a matching demeanour. And 650 of them (plus probably thousands more imposters) roam the land. Sometimes, bowing to Madam Speaker, a chap will wander into the Chamber whom nobody has ever seen before. There are, in short, few assertions in which we may feel less secure than that an individual is not—or, indeed, is—an MP.

When I left the Commons, East Midlands Electricity continued to bill me as "MP" for two years, and to give excellent service. For a year I carried on receiving on a document marked "secret": the weekly Conservative Whip. Not long ago, a Foreign Office minister wrote inquiring if I had any spare MP's tickets for FM's Questions. After seven years, BT still thinks I'm an MP. Their bills say so and their vans rush out in storms to repair my line. Like Poon, I have said nothing. When a friend

did not need his "special offer to MPs" subscription to *The Spectator*, I gave him the money and he gave them my address. Thus far my sin, like Poon's, had been of silence. But three years ago I went further. Seeing an offer of laptop computers at half price to parliamentarians only, I filled out the application. I did not specifically say that I was an MP, but confessed to making no mention that I was not. However it seemed unwise to apply also for the "continuing care" repair cover, so I drew the line at that. The computer arrived.

And an excellent laptop it has proved! Some 600 of my articles have come to you by way of this machine. As MPs are not an economically disadvantaged group, the diversion from their service to yours of a cut-price laptop is a way of redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor—a significant blow in the struggle for a just society, of which Roy Hattersley at least should approve.

Returning from Hong Kong three weeks ago, however, the keyboard began to stick. There were a few days in which to get it fixed before leaving for Antarctica. I had no service guarantee—unlisted in the Yellow Pages—were presumably outside London. No technician I rang could undertake to return the laptop fast. I left for Chile with a dodgy machine.

Chile is a can-do place, but even the excellent—if mysteriously named Sebastian Camus, our Santiago guide, could not get my laptop fixed in the few hours we had there. And Ushuaia in the Argentine Tierra del Fuego proved better shopping for harpoons than computers.

We sailed for Antarctica. In a stormy crossing of Drake Passage the keyboard worsened. In our wake the wandering albatross mocked as I tried to type. We crossed the Polar circle and landed on the Antarctic peninsula. The seals had no knowledge of information technology, the penguins were full of advice but knew nothing, and the whales, if they knew, would not tell. And so to Palmer Station, on Anvers Island, where the US has a scientific base. Its computer technician, Greg Schaffer, showed us round the neat, bleak, iron buildings, beside which great glaciers crack and roar. "Any questions?" he said. "How do you put up with the winter darkness?" asked one of our group. "Do supplies get in when you're icebound?" asked another. "Can you fix my laptop?" I asked. He could, and did. And I didn't even have to pretend to be an MP.

Confronted with Hitler and Stalin, the Pope failed by being unready to embrace martyrdom

The importance of being more than Pius

William Rees-Mogg

As one of a group of British journalists, I had a private audience with Pope Pius XII in 1955: we had been invited to visit Rome by Shell Italiana for some device purpose connected with the politics of the Italian oil business, and the public relations team had access to the Vatican. As he was introduced to each of us, we bowed; I do not think I kissed his ring, more out of embarrassment than principle. He asked each of us where we lived. I replied "London". "I love London," he commented. My memory is that he went on to say much the same of Glasgow and Birmingham, but 40 years later, my memory may be faulty.

The Pope left two impressions. The first was that he was a deeply spiritual man; the second that he was an almost entirely segregated figure, remote from the world for which he prayed. The Vatican in those days seemed much more a court than a government, with the Pope like one of those exquisite Japanese emperors of the 18th century, who reigned but did not rule. No doubt somewhere in the Curia, cautious and conservative, decisions were being made in conformity with what were believed to be his wishes.

In the 1980s I served on a Vatican committee, which had the splendid title of *International Committee of the Pontifical Council for Culture*. We had an annual meeting, which also included an audience with the Pope, and on one occasion lunch. I doubt if anyone ever lunched with Pius XII. Pope John Paul II is also a man with an impressive spiritual faith, but he possesses an altogether different temperament, active where Pius was contemplative, using the power of the papacy to intervene in the contemporary world, where Pius used it to preside over a tradition.

I do not doubt that John Paul II would have handled the challenge of Nazism quite differently from Pius XII, and more effectively. The failure

of the Vatican to devise a strategy to deal with Hitler may well have convinced John XXIII that the Church needed the radical renewal which emerged from the Second Vatican Council. It was that council which in its turn made possible the election of a Polish Pope of active temperament. The Vatican's failure to face up to the evil of the dictators discredited the particular kind of ecclesiastical leadership that is associated with the name of Pius. I doubt if the world will ever see a Pope Pius XIII.

Pius XII was the heir to many of the policies of two of his predecessors, Pius IX and Pius X. Pius IX responded to the unification of Italy and the loss of the papal territories by making himself the prisoner in the Vatican, by withdrawing from a world in which the Pope was no longer a temporal prince. He also withdrew the Church from the intellectual life of the 19th century; in 1864, five years after Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, he published his encyclical, *Quanta Cura*, which condemned 16 "errors of the age"; that was accompanied by the *Syllabus of Errors*, which listed no fewer than 80 censured propositions. The *Syllabus of Errors* has fairly been described as "a veritable embodiment of religious narrow-mindedness and cringing servility to papal authority". Pius IX endeavored to reinforce this ultra-conservative withdrawal from the world by the decrees of the First Vatican Council in 1870.

This tendency to retreat from the struggle with reality was reinforced by the reign of Pope Pius X—again a very holy man—who became Pope in 1903. Pius X became the persecutor of the modernists in the Catholic Church, some of whom were indeed unorthodox but whose main proposed reforms were the inspiration of Vatican II. Pius X might well have regarded that council with horror as the triumph of modernism over his view of the Church.

Pius XII chose his name to show his loyalty to the view of the Catholic

peacefully of natural causes. The tradition of the early Church was that the first nine Popes were all also martyrs.

Pius XII came from the tradition of withdrawal to the Vatican cloisters. This was not an altogether unworthy tradition—there is a place in religious life for prayer, silence and retreat. Had it been the fortune of Pius XII to become abbot of some great monastery, he might be remembered in a narrow circle as a man of personal sanctity. But he had the misfortune to be the Pope, most directly in the eye of the 20th-century storm. He had to contend with the evils of both communism and Nazism, with the Gulag and Auschwitz. He did so with the spiritual fortification and experience of a 19th-century priest, though with a certain additional training in diplomacy. It was something, but it was not enough.

Last week, the BBC2 programme *Reputations* looked specifically at his failure to denounce the Nazi massacre of the Jews. There is, I think, no doubt that his first priority was to protect and preserve the Catholic community in Europe. He saw them as his flock, and by the end of 1940 almost all of Europe's Catholics outside Ireland, and the British minority, were under Nazi or Fascist power. He was better aware than many of his critics that communism was an evil and as genocidal as Nazism. He tried to follow a policy of covert assistance to Jews, rather than open denunciation, which he believed

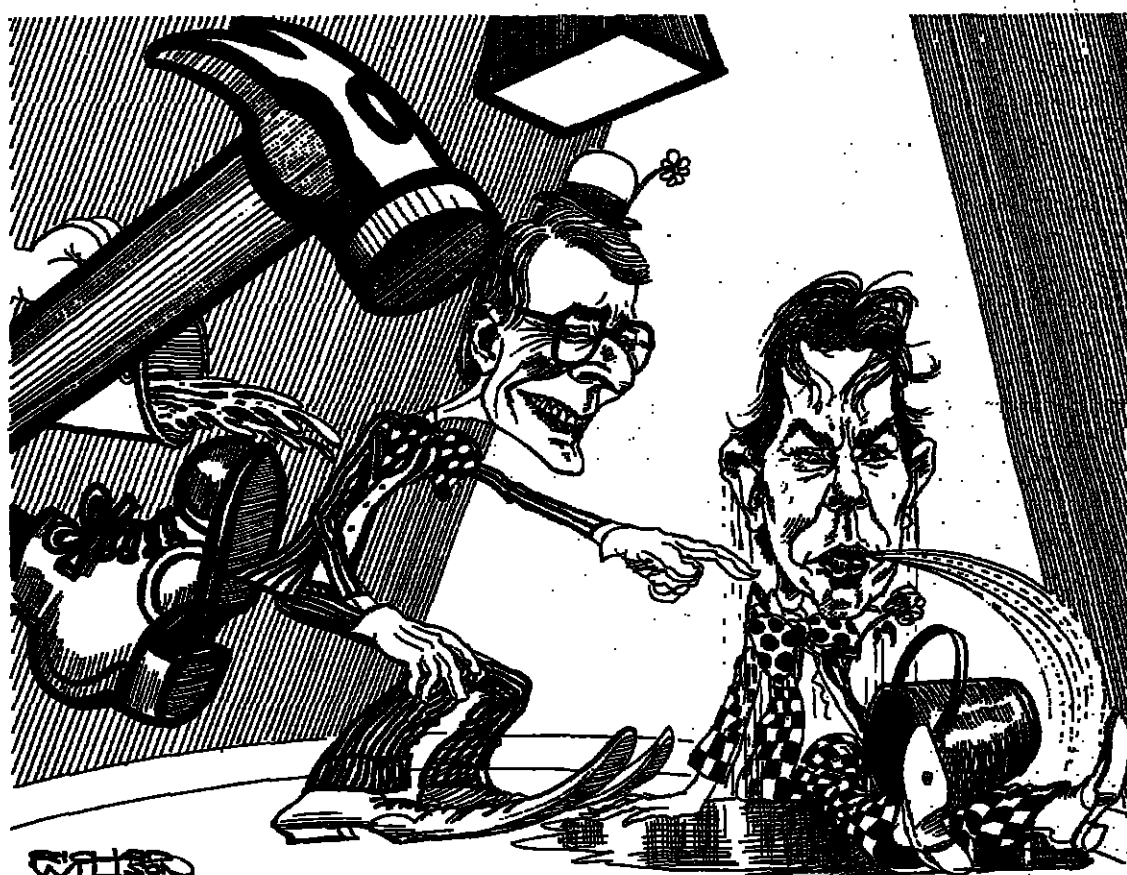
would provoke further retaliation. His policy did in fact save many Jews. Perhaps half a million or a million were helped to survive by Catholic agencies and support of one sort or another. His policy also helped the Catholic Church itself to survive, which is a prime responsibility for any Pope. Without the Church, Stalin would have been more powerful in Europe after 1945.

One can also argue on the Pope's side the extraordinary silence of the Allies. All the intelligence sources must have told Churchill and Roosevelt of the progress of the Final Solution. They neither published what they knew nor denounced the Holocaust nor bombed the death camps. If the allied governments, who had little or nothing to lose by frankness, decided to keep more or less quiet, the Pope, who had a whole community to lose, can hardly be made the focus of blame. They, after all, were men of power; he had been trained as a man of prayer.

Yet I think the thrust of the criticism is justified. Pius XII failed the Jews, and thereby failed the Church. He took too narrow and limited a view of his responsibilities. He was faced with evil incarnate, and tried to evade rather than confront it. I am sure that John Paul II would have handled matters otherwise, would have been a more open voice of conscience, would have accepted the risks of martyrdom, both for himself and for his Church. I believe, indeed, that he would never have become the Pope, would never have been elected, if the Church had not felt it necessary to leave behind the cloistered tradition associated with the name of Pius. The witness of the Christian Church has historically been one of martyrdom. It would have been better if the Catholic Church had accepted the risk of martyrdom in the Nazi period. Prudence and prayer were not enough. Human affairs require a more active courage.

Now for Labour's specifics

Peter Riddell says Tory MPs should beware of celebrating their recovery too soon



Until the late 1970s, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition would spend their Sundays at home with their families, with perhaps the occasional telephone call to colleagues. No longer. At just after 11.30 yesterday morning, I noticed a group of people in New Palace Yard sheltering from the rain, a highly unusual sight at Westminster on a Sunday morning. At the centre of the huddle were Tony Blair and John Prescott, surrounded by media advisers: co-ordinating, as they admitted, their approach to their two television interviews yesterday. It was a revealing vignette of how politics now works, as well of the current wariness shown by the Labour leadership.

Labour is suddenly on the defensive. The political stockmarket has turned upside down since Christmas. John Major, who had been touching record lows, is now a fashionable buy, while Tony Blair, the growth stock of 1994, has become a sell. These verdicts are premature. Pundits and politicians who deplore short-termism in the City should be wary of falling into the same trap. What financial analysts call the fundamentals have not changed much.

Mr Major has undoubtedly made a strong personal start to the year. He has been in self-confident and relaxed form in interviews, at his Downing Street news conference, and at Question Time. Commons exchanges have a disproportionate impact on the morale of Tory MPs. But being cheered by John Sykes, David Shaw, Jacques Arnold and similar Tory yahoos is not going to win back many former Tory supporters. They may be more concerned about rising interest rates, a patchy housing market

and worries over rail privatisation. There are admittedly some signs of a reduction in the bitter Tory in-fighting over Europe. Mr Major's "thus far and no further" line on big constitutional changes at the inter-governmental conference next year has received widespread support from Tory MPs. The leadership—including yesterday even the normally rumbustious Kenneth Clarke—is keen to heal the rift with the nine whipless Euro-rebels. Ministers offered a mild response to their manifesto, even though its demands are incompatible with remaining in the European Union. But there is a distinction between this tactical truce and big differences within the party, and the Cabinet, over future strategy. For all the repeated government claims about the rest of Europe moving against "federalism", British

minimalism is at odds with the views of other right-of-centre European parties. No wonder Tory pro-Europeans are increasingly worried. As important in raising Tory morale has been the counterattack on Labour over education, rail privatisation and the replacement of Clause Four. As Mr Blair admitted yesterday, his "honeymoon" was bound to end at some stage. There were always divisions within Labour, but they were obscured before Christmas by the much greater public differences within the Tory party.

These rows should not, however, be exaggerated. Rewriting Clause Four was never going to be a walk-over. But the opposition has so far been confined to predictable voices on

the hard Left. At present, a vacuum exists because no new statement of aims and objectives has been produced. That has allowed the opponents to organise, while supporters of change have been slow to mobilise. Moreover, Mr Blair has yet to convince many Labour activists that he is in tune with their hearts as well as their heads. As he showed during his robust performance on the BBC's *On the Record* yesterday, New Labour is much more a marketing slogan. It is about whether Labour members and MPs fully recognise that the party has to change. As a symbol of this debate, the Blair's decision to send their son to a grant-maintained school has infuriated many activists who have been involved in local battles, often as parents and governors, against such opt-outs. It has fuelled doubts which he will seek to

answer in his nationwide campaign on Clause Four starting this week. My hunch remains that Mr Blair will win comfortably at the special party conference in three months' time. The real issue is about the wording of the new formula and linked policy debates. That is the main battle for the mainstream Left. Even Bill Morris of the Transport Workers accepts that the new clause should not name specific industries to be taken back into public ownership. That will be a separate battle, with Mr Blair resisting union calls to renationalise water and similar utilities. But the unions still control more than two-thirds of the conference votes, so for all the denial of deals, Labour leaders will not make controversial policy statements until after the Clause Four vote. That has been reflected in the ambiguous remarks about might happen to a privatised British Rail. Such confusion and vagueness in other areas has been fully exploited by the Tories.

Plenty of work still needs to be done, particularly on spending and taxes as well as on public services and constitutional reform. The debate over devolution, for example, has so far been mainly framed in Scottish terms, and until recently Labour spokesmen have not had to debate the implications for England. There is time for these defects to be corrected, but the party will soon have to start fleshing out its policies. Labour still has to show what it would do in power. In that respect, the arguments since the new year have opened a necessary debate. But the Tories should not celebrate too soon. Their position remains weaker and more fragile. The opinion poll gap between the parties may narrow from the previous record levels. It would be extraordinary if it did not soon. But that may be less a turning point than a correction from an exceptional position. The crucial political period this year will be late April and early May, with the special Labour conference on Saturday, April 29 and the local elections the following Thursday. A double victory for Mr Blair, however predictable, could reopen all the Tory wounds.

Taking Ambridge

NORMA MAJOR is to face up to her addition today. She is off to the 44th birthday party of *The Archers*, where she will finally meet the people behind the voices of her favourite programme. A devoted listener to the Radio 4 soap since childhood—she says her earliest memory is of listening to the programme at an aunt's house—she has never attended an official *Archers* event. The depth of her passion for Ambridge life emerged when the fan club *Archers Addicts* asked her to become its 10,000th member. She wrote back politely to say she had already joined. The records had her down simply as Mrs Major of Cambridgeshire. "It's the one programme I still try to listen to today," she has said. "The characters are so clearly defined."

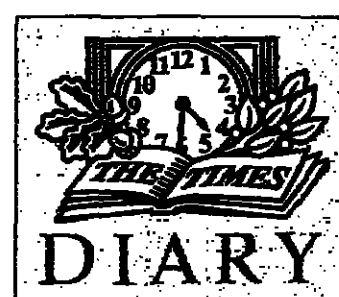
As guest of honour at the West London bash thrown by the BBC tonight, she will be able to expand at leisure on the subtleties of character with the actors themselves and the writers and producers of the show. "It will be nice to see her there."



●The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, has cleared all the pictures of former Democratic leaders out of his new study. My man on Capitol Hill found the room bare except for a portrait of Winston Churchill wiggling his finger above the message "Deserve victory".

Too forward

MICHAEL HESELTINE has written the foreword to the new term card of Oxford University's Guild Society. The organisation used to be the industrial society but its role now seems a little unclear. "I am particularly encouraged by the efforts of the Guild Society to promote an understanding of business and commerce among Oxford students," writes the President of the Board of Trade, who goes on to tell his readers they are the key managers and professional staff of the future. Overleaf, an advert explains how the society is preparing its members for these roles. "Wealth, power, sex" screams the headline. The text reads: "Well, two out of three ain't [sic] bad. Oxford's biggest society invites you to join its committee [sic]. We can't offer you wealth, but the rest is yours to discover..."



Events for this term include "the famed debauchery of champagne and chocolates, which has been expanded and should be an even bigger orgy of over-indulgence". Ah.

Prime sites

NERVOUS mothers concerned about the standard of student accommodation at Edinburgh University can put their fears to rest. The school in Edinburgh which inspired Muriel Spark to write *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* has been turned into plush accommodation for undergraduates. The former James Gillespie High School in Bruntsfield, where the novelist herself went to school, is said to be the model for the fictitious Marcia Blaine's School for

the crème de la crème of young ladies. After a £2 million revamp, some of the rooms are now so well appointed that the Scottish Tourist Board have awarded them three-crown status.

Law unto all

LORD DENNING will celebrate his 96th birthday today with a quiet party for family and friends. But the day is being marked as far as the world is concerned. The Law Society of British Columbia was so taken with the former Master of the Rolls when he opened new law courts in Vancouver in 1979 that it has had a statue made of him in full wig and gown. "They wrote and asked me if they could do this. They thought it was a good way of marking my birthday," says Denning. "It is a bit bigger than life. I do appreciate it."

They wrote and asked me if they could do this. They thought it was a good way of marking my birthday," says Denning. "It is a bit bigger than life. I do appreciate it."



Pudding on a show: Anouska Hempel, along with the more mundane reception rooms. Halfway through dinner, she herds her guests out of the dining room into a dark-green, mirrored suite, where they are presented with up to 12 different puddings. "Who wants to go to a dinner party and stay at the same table, or even in the same room, all evening?" she says in next month's *House and Garden* magazine.

●From today, passengers paying £5,000 to cross the Atlantic on Concorde will be offered a new delicacy with their champagne and caviar. A Highlands Butcher, Grants of Dumfries, has been saved from redundancy by a contract to supply British Airways with black pudding. Stuart Grant brought the first consignment down from Aberdeen this weekend in his hand luggage.

Power glen

THE PRIME Perthshire estate of Glen Lyon has just come on the market at £2.5 million. The 6,235 acres, lying amid the spectacular scenery of Scotland's longest glen, offer more than just good hunting, shooting and fishing. The estate comes with its own hydro-electric power station. Electricity is provided for Glen Lyon House and several estate cottages. "Most people are interested in the river beats, deer-stalking and grouse shooting," says a local estate agent. "But there have been some getting very excited at the thought of having their own power station in the back yard."



THE BLAIR MESSAGE

Tough on Clause Four, tough on the backers of Clause Four?

Tony Blair insisted in his BBC interview yesterday that his campaign to replace Clause Four of the Labour Party's constitution is a battle over more important issues than the party's policies on renationalising British Rail. So it is. The purpose of the campaign is to create a "new Labour" party in the voters' minds with an identifiable set of principles relevant to the needs of the electorate in the 1990s and beyond.

As Mr Blair put it, Labour will win the trust of voters as a potential government only by defining "what we are for, and not merely what we are against": to do this his party must have an "ideological compass". And that compass cannot possibly be Clause Four which establishes "common ownership" of all industry as the party's central objective. Even in the most impassioned debates between Labour's modernisers and reactionaries, few have suggested that Clause Four should be taken as a serious guide to action. The battle between the Left and the Right, ever since last year's party conference, has not been about whether they would actually want a Labour Government to nationalise all private property, but over whether an embarrassing and painful argument is really necessary about what Labour should stand for.

In demanding that Labour should abandon the double-talk of Clause Four and be explicit about its claims for a new identity and ideological conviction, Mr Blair's position is sound. The more the party's traditionalists rage against him, the more likely they are to make him look honest, decisive and progressive - provided, of course, that he defeats them in the end.

Unfortunately for Mr Blair, defeating the traditionalists will be only half the Clause Four battle. The much harder part of his task will be to replace Clause Four with a new Labour ideology that can appeal to modern Britain, and yet be identifiable as a

distinctive "left of centre" view. While Mr Blair and his allies may put great emphasis on their determination to create a positive new ideology for Labour, their attempts to articulate such a vision have been unconvincing.

Yesterday, for example, Mr Blair posed the correct rhetorical question: "What is the left of centre about?" But his answer left the nation none the wiser. He identified Labour's core beliefs as "social justice, partnership, co-operation and democracy". Such platitudinous generalities may seem a safe substitute for Clause Four's all too specific aspirations to universal public ownership but they fall flat as a means of defining the identity of the new Labour party and reassuring voters that the party really has changed.

A more distinctive and inspiring vision than this may, of course, be too much to expect. But if he cannot be clearer about the broad ideas that Labour now stands for, Mr Blair must not feign surprise if he is pinned down by the media, the Tories and even the Liberal Democrats about specific policy commitments. So far, he has managed to sidestep many controversies by saying, as he did yesterday, that his party is not in government and therefore cannot be expected to make detailed policy statements, whether on taxes and public spending, or on education and nationalised industries. But if victory in the Clause Four debate narrows the ideological distance between the main parties, it will only be on specific policies commitments and perceived competence that the electorate will be able to choose the next Government. To judge by Labour's recent disarray over rail, education and devolution, the need to make specific policy commitments which can simultaneously appeal to the nation and unite his party would yet prove an insuperable hurdle for Mr Blair.

NEW RUSSIAN ARMY

Military reform may yet bring good from Grozny

Anxious to steady his grip on power in the wake of the debacle in Chechnya, President Yeltsin has sacked three senior generals who opposed the intervention. But behind the facade of Kremlin discipline, the Russian leader must know that the criticisms were right: bad planning, poor intelligence and strategic errors turned an exercise intended to bring the breakaway republic back within the control of the Russian Federation into a bloody and perilous campaign.

His likeliest course is to leave the dismissals of those who opposed the mission with that of Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, who ran it. This would be useful, since General Grachev is unpopular in the armed forces and suspected of being close to military figures involved in corruption.

But sackings, too often Mr Yeltsin's response to troubles, are no substitute for military reform. The main problem is that the Russian Army continues to regard itself as the Soviet Army writ small. The general staff is obsessed by preparing for the high-tech, high-intensity conflicts it expected to fight during the Cold War. It is deeply distrustful of the 1993 military doctrine which pledged a switch from massive land forces, dominated by tanks, to flexible, lightly armed rapid-reaction forces capable of operating inside Russian territory.

Chechnya has shown that without tight central planning, the doctrine is unworkable. Even without a war, the Army's plight has been worsening in the last three years. The conscription system has collapsed, with the majority of the potential troops finding ways to exempt themselves from service. Of those who remain, half go into the well-manned Interior and Security Ministries

armed wings, leaving only 75,000 for all the other armed forces. The vast interior and security forces are an incongruous vestige of the Soviet Union and its repressive internal security policies; they would be obvious targets for change.

The Army needs to lose men, not by means of the current random loss of conscripts and deserters, but programmatically, to reduce the absurdly high ratio of officers to men. Such is the indifference of the institution to those who have served it that most of the funds put aside by the European Union for officer resettlement remain unclaimed.

The spectacle of Russia's forces in turmoil may appeal to some in the West who believe that this is a fitting postscript to decades of Soviet might. But that is a dangerous supposition - and not only because of the Western interest in securing predictable and reliable control of the nuclear arsenal.

The ethnically-varied Russian Federation needs a disciplined and confident military as a disincentive to irredentism and to allow the regions time and tranquillity to evolve mutually satisfactory relations with the centre. Russian culture attaches great respect to soldiers. Watching the defenders of the Motherland dwindle into brigands without common purpose or loyalty is deeply dispiriting to the population at large.

Perhaps the humiliations meted out to Russian troops in Chechnya will prompt President Yeltsin to follow the Tsar's example after the drawn-out Caucasian campaign of the last century, and instigate lasting changes in the way the Army is run. Some positive good, at least, could then arise from under the ruins of Grozny.

SIR ROBIN BOWS OUT

Diplomacy in Washington enters a difficult phase

A good ambassador knows how to exploit the warmth of close relations when diplomatic ties are close, and how to protect his country's interests when relationships are under strain. Sir Robin Renwick, soon to retire as British Ambassador to Washington, has done both. His premature departure will bring surprise to some. The offers made to top ambassadors as they near the end of their term are tempting and lucrative, but his leaving in no way reflects on his remarkable achievement in both good times and bad. He is to be succeeded by Sir John Kerr, a man whose celebrated patience will be sorely needed. The outlook for Anglo-American relations is squally.

Sir Robin arrived in Washington at a time when the long Reagan-Thatcher honeymoon had ended. It was a time of reassessment by the Bush Administration: of its European priorities, of America's world role and of the relationship with Britain that many thought was playing a disproportionate role in the formulation of American policy. There were strong moves, clearly articulated by James Baker, to focus on Germany as the new lynchpin of the transatlantic relationship. Sir Robin's achievement was in accepting with good grace this reassessment, and in ensuring that it never, in fact, came about.

Throughout the Bush Administration, Britain retained its extraordinary access to the decision-makers both in the White House and on Capitol Hill. Other leading European allies were also consulted; but none had an input into policy formulation at

such an early stage. Britain's close military and intelligence links obviously helped. So too did the British embassy. Sir Robin's diplomatic time in Washington matched the reputation that he brought with him from South Africa: exhaustive, relentless, reliable and, above all, discreet.

The election of President Clinton made everything more difficult. Not only had the affinity between the Conservative and Republican parties disappeared; the new Administration paid more attention to its American-Irish voters that its Establishment Anglophiles. It was determined to look afresh at Bosnia and was suspicious of the old links. Sir Robin saw some of the most difficult months in Anglo-American relations for decades: the disagreement over the Bosnian arms embargo, the first visa for Gerry Adams and the perplexity in London over Mr Clinton's foreign policy.

These strains will not go away. Indeed, the latest congressional elections are likely to increase them. In particular the ascendancy of Jesse Helms, one of the few senators who can fairly be described as an Anglophobe, in the Foreign Relations Committee means that British diplomacy will have to contend not only with a President often unable to deliver policies, but a Congress where neo-isolationism, protectionism and a deep suspicion of the European allies will always be close to the surface. In Brussels Sir John Kerr needed all his guile and patience. The divided Washington of Clinton and Helms will test those qualities even further.

Poor prospects for women's pensions

From the Director of the Fawcett Society and others

Sir, The Pensions Bill, which is due to get its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday, was intended by the Government to give equal treatment to men and women. The reality ("Pension measure 'no help'", *Business News*, January 17) is that the proposed equalisation of the pension age at 65 will take £5 billion a year from women. Rather than this money being used to compensate women and improve their pensions, as proposed by the Social Security Advisory Committee, it will go to the Treasury.

Women are more reliant on the basic state pension than men are because their lower earnings and different patterns of work make it harder for them to build up other sources of pension. Because the care of children and of disabled people as well as elder care in the home fall mainly on women they frequently have to move from full-time work into lower paid part-time work or give up employment for a time. In 1974, 15 per cent of employed people were part-time women workers; by 1994 the figure had risen to 23 per cent.

As a result only around 16 per cent of women retire with a full state pension. Their lower wages mean that currently 2.25 million earn too little to pay National Insurance contributions towards their basic state pensions, much less enough to contribute towards occupational or private pension schemes. Only 20 per cent of women have occupational pensions, compared to 66 per cent of men.

Currently, women can defer drawing their pensions until after the age of 60, which can increase their pension by up to 37.5 per cent. With equalisation at 65 this will no longer be an option. However, both men and women will have problems in finding and retaining employment after 60: in 1993, 43 per cent of men and 68 per cent of women previously in employment had already retired - voluntarily or otherwise - by that age.

The current system is based on the assumption that most women will marry and be dependent on their male partners, but this is increasingly not always the case. Many more women are now going out to work. Divorce rates are rising and in many cases the husband's pension may not be taken fully into account in the settlement. Older married women are often left in dire need and dependent on social security when their pensioner partners go into long-term residential care as they may lose access to their husbands' pension, which can be used by the local authority to offset the cost of care.

On present trends, two out of three women retiring after 2030 will have an income on the margins of poverty. We want to see the Pensions Bill strengthened to take into account the changing patterns of women's working lives and domestic roles and their more limited access to independent occupational and private pensions.

Yours truly,
SHELAGH DIPLOCK (Director, The Fawcett Society),
KAMEL BAHIL (Chair, Equal Opportunities Commission),
SALLY GREENGROSS (Director General, Age Concern England),
NORMA HUDDY (President, Business & Professional Women (UK) Ltd),
JACK JONES (President, National Pensioners Convention),
JOHN MONKS (General Secretary, TUC),
JILL PITKEATHLEY (Director, Careers National Association),
ELIZABETH SOUTHEY (National Chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes),
The Fawcett Society,
40-46 Harleyford Road,
Vauxhall, SE11,
January 20.

Singapore's rebuttal

From the High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore

Sir, In his article, "Singapore opens debate on dissent in a nanny state" (January 12), Christopher Thomas describes Singapore as the ultimate nanny state where the people are treated "rather like errand children". Can naming Singapore workers produce a world-competitive airline like SIA? Bert (Business Environment Risk Intelligence), a US organisation, ranks the Singapore workforce in 1994 as the number one in the world.

The Geneva World Economic Forum competitiveness report, 1994, ranks Singapore as the second most competitive economy after the USA. Has the Singapore Government been wrong to get Singaporeans to achieve standards of excellence that have made Singapore competitive internationally?

Christopher Thomas said many Singaporeans are weary of the Government's "hectoring, patronizing and pervasive presence in their lives". Eight times in the last 36 years, at four to six-yearly intervals, Singaporeans could, in free and fair elections, have changed their government. They chose to re-elect it. Could not this be one reason why Singapore has moved from "squallor to become a world economic power in three decades"?

Yours sincerely,
ABDUL AZIZ MAHMOOD,
Singapore High Commission,
9 Wilton Crescent, SW1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Pitfalls in mental health legislation

From the Registrar of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, I congratulate you on your balanced reporting (January 17) of the tragic incident at the Edith Morgan unit and Sir Louis Blom-Cooper on producing an excellent inquiry report.

As a former chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission, Sir Louis is in an excellent position to know the difficulties in interpreting the current Mental Health Act. There is indeed a need for a review of its detailed workings.

For instance, there are only two criteria (health or safety) for compulsory admission to a mental hospital and this covers three separate conditions: mental illness, psychopathic disorder, and learning disabilities. Thus there is ample scope for confusion and multiple interpretations.

Psychiatrists are criticised on the one hand for using the Act too much and on the other for using it too little. In an individual case the psychiatrist must not only be persuaded himself of the necessity for admission but must also persuade the patient's relatives, a social worker, and a second doctor (sometimes a general practitioner).

In difficult questions, such as that posed by Andrew Robinson, there is very likely to be disagreement. Even when there is agreement between the clinicians the decision can subsequently be challenged, first of all by managers of the hospital to which the patient has been admitted, and secondly by a mental health review tribunal, whose workings have been criticised by the Blom-Cooper report.

Yours etc,
C. THOMPSON, Registrar,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1,
January 17.

Unofficial medals

From Mr Peter Girling

Sir, Brigadier Stuart Ryder (letter, January 17) is quite within his rights to dislike unofficial commemorative medals, but he is not entitled to imply that any old Tom, Dick or Harry can purchase them.

The Royal British Legion has supported the issue of the National Service medal struck by a company of impeccable reputation, with a strict condition that its purchase is restricted to National Service men and women, including those called up during the war, and their next of kin. Since 1992 the sale of this medal has raised some £140,000 for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Five other commemorative medals struck by the same company are for members of Bomber Command, prisoners of war, those who served on the Arctic convoys and in Normandy and

From Professor Peter Huxley

Sir, There seems little point in advocating legislation to mandate community treatment for mentally ill people when there are so many inadequacies in the existing community services. Government policy has had an adverse impact on the provision of social care made by local authorities in several ways:

1. The generally inadequate resources which reach social services departments for this client group.
2. The diversion of resources and attention away from direct work with mentally ill people towards assessment and eligibility determination for elderly people.
3. The overall reduction in the numbers of social work training places in work with severely mentally ill people.
4. The overall reduction in the standards required for social work with mentally ill people: for instance, most social workers are not taught psychiatry by psychiatrists, and most do not gain practice experience in work with mentally ill people during their basic training.
5. The enormous variation from one area to another in the availability of social workers approved to act under the 1983 Act.

An official review of training and community care provision for people with severe mental illness would be preferable to a new piece of legislation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HUXLEY,
School of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences,
Mathematics Building,
University of Manchester,
Manchester M13,
January 18.

a 50th anniversary Peace medal issued in conjunction with the British Red Cross.

I hardly see how the wearing of such medals can devalue official medals, when one bears in mind that the minimum criterion for the 1939-45 War Medal was 28 days non-operational service. Provided that these commemorative medals are worn, as they should be, either on the right lapel or below official medals, they cannot be confused with the latter.

As a National Serviceman and a holder of the Naval General Service medal with bar, "Near East", all I am saying by wearing my NS medal below my NGS medal is that I served my National Service and am proud of it!

Yours etc,
PETER GIRLING,
11 Bateman Mews,
Cambridge,
January 17.

Uneven honours

From Squadron-Leader Jack Currie, DFC, RAF (retd)

Sir, James Hampton (letter, January 17) sees an inequity in the award of decorations to World War II aircrew, and I have some sympathy with his view: the members of a bomber crew shared a common danger and depended on each other for their survival. They either worked as a team or they were lost. He is mistaken, however, in thinking that they all did exactly the same work.

The air gunners, bomb-aimer, wireless operator and flight engineer, most of whom were NCOs, made important contributions to the operation, and might have moments of intensive action, but the pilot, as captain of the aircraft, and the navigator, carried the main responsibility for the success or failure of the attack.

They had undertaken a longer, more demanding training, were usually commissioned, and more was expected of them; they were also more likely to receive an end-of-war award.

Immediate awards, for outstanding feats of skill or bravery, were another matter, and every crew member had an equal chance of one of those.

Yours faithfully,
JACK CURRIE,
Westfield, Thirsk Road,
Easingwold, Yorkshire,
January 18.

Ambulance report

From Mr Alan Meyer

Sir, Mr William Wells's letter of January 17 is quite silent on the main point of my letter (January 7) to which it responds. Since I wrote, notwithstanding the earlier explicit inquiry team warning and the damning report published last week (details, January 18), the Health Secretary has permitted the accident department at Barts to close. No new patients will be admitted after January 27.

Surely, a responsible and caring Health Secretary would have halted temporarily that closure, at least until she was certain that day in, day out, a revived and improved London Ambulance Service was at long last providing the statutory service "to meet all reasonable needs".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MEYER (Legal Adviser,
Westminster Hospitals
Development Fund),
Halsey Meyer Higgins (solicitors),
10 Carteret Street,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
January 17.

Cold comfort

From Mr Merrick Baker-Bates

Sir, I doubt whether those Japanese tourists in white masks (photograph, January 17) were making "an eloquent point" about London's air quality as your caption said.

The Japanese wear masks when they have a cold to try to ensure that others do not catch their germs, as these two were surely doing.

Yours faithfully,
MERRICK BAKER-BATES,
450 South June Street,
Los Angeles, California 90020, USA.

Stress factors for working parents

From Mrs Shoshana Appleton

Sir, My heart goes out to Ginny Dougary and millions of women today trying to juggle a job and a family ("My second working family", *Weekend*, January 14).

In the last ten years we have seen more and more graduates and more and more women wanting to enter an ever-shrinking job market. There is something very wrong with a society where half its people are dying to work while the other half are dying from overwork.

What about job sharing, by both parents, at home and at work? Both could happily go out to work half the day, while spending the other half at home, better for them, their health and that of their children.

Job sharing must be the answer to half our overworked, overstressed population, while the other half are on the loose, with no jobs, no prospects and no money. The overall economy of the country would benefit, apart from the workplace gaining two fresh minds instead of one tired out one.

Let's have more jobs for more people, share our prime time equally between home, work and leisure, and gain a better balance in our lives, so we can live now and not wait till we retire.

Yours etc,
SHOSHANA APPLETON,
Loughry,
Hele's Bay, Co Down.

From Mrs S. May

Sir, I am Ginny Dougary feels compelled to pursue prestige and money via her career then that is her choice. She says she feels "extremely fortunate" to be working from home, then proceeds to bleat on about the long hours she works and the necessity of employing an army of helpers to keep her family life running. If she truly attaches importance to parenthood then perhaps she should re-examine her priorities.

Staying at home and not working does not automatically equal "endless domesticity". Ms. Dougary's statement that it would drive her and her friends round the bend only serves to reinforce the pressure on women to be active (or hyperactive) in every area of their lives all at once. Such an attitude is a sad reflection on our society.

Yours faithfully,
S. MAY,
84 Bankside Crescent, Streety,
Sumner Coldfield, West Midlands,
January 16.

From Mrs Kathryn Gyngeell

Sir, I gave up my career to become a full-time mother because the anguish of being separated from my then one-year-old baby became too much. Of course the decision was made easier by the security of my husband's income and I am eternally grateful that financial pressure has not forced me back to work before I am ready. But I have never spoken with "high moral authority" as Ginny Dougary alleges.

The last decade has seen official encouragement for mothers to return to the labour force. But at what price? Full time mothers are treated as second class citizens, not least by their career minded colleagues. And as Dougary so cogently describes, working parenthood is a fragile house of cards.

Children deserve more. One answer to the problem is to restructure the fiscal and benefits system to make the one-breadwinner family viable during those crucial child-rearing years.

Yours sincerely,
KATHRYN GYNGEELL,
85 Wallaroy Road, Woolahra,
New South Wales 2025, Australia,
January 18.

India's population

From Mr Nigel Crook

Sir, It is not true to say that India has "no official family planning programme" (report, January 6). India was among the first of the developing countries of Asia and Africa to institute one in 1952, and has maintained it ever since.

The birthrate, which is a good indicator of future growth, has declined by about 30 per cent since the 1960s; in some areas, such as the large southern state of Tamil Nadu (population 56 million), fertility close to replacement levels has been reached (about two children per couple). There is cause neither for complacency nor pessimism.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL CROOK,
School of Oriental and African Studies,
Department of Economics,
Thornhaugh Street, WC1,
January 12.

Birthright?

From Mr and Mrs Charles Parker

Sir, I see (News in Brief, January 18) that a couple who named their child Remy Martin have been sent a £100 bottle of the brandy by the distillers. With this in mind we intend to name any future child of ours Ferrari Testarossa.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PARKER,
SANDY PARKER,
1 All That Cottages,
Victoria Road, Windmill Hill,
Nr Hailsham, East Sussex.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 22: Divine Service was held in Fitcham Parish Church this morning.
The Bishop of Hereford preached the sermon.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 21: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, attended the International Match between Scotland and Canada at Murrayfield, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Birthdays today

Mrs Justice Arden, 48; Mr Peter Alderton, former Governor, Long Lartin Prison, 48; Professor Alastair Compston, neurologist, 47; Mr A.M. Davis, rugby player, 53; Lord Denning, 96; Mr Ian Dodgson, racehorse trainer, 50; Air Marshal Sir Barry Duxbury, 61; Professor D.F. Duxbury, 61; Sir John Grenside, chartered accountant, 74; Brigadier D.D.G. Hardie, Lord Lieutenant of Strathclyde Region, 59; Mr Roger Hauer, actor, 51; Mr William Hayden, Governor-General of Australia, 62; Sir James Lighthill, former provost, University College London, 71; Miss Jeanne Moreau, actress, 67; Dr Christine Nicholls, editor, *Dictionary of National Biography*, 52; Brigadier Kenneth Page, 97; Mr Bob Paisley, former football manager, 76; Mr Rupert Pennefather, Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 47; Sir Allick Rankin, chairman, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, 68; Mr Edward Rowlands, MP, 55; Sir Kenneth Scott, Deputy Private Secretary to the Queen, 64; Lord Strathcarron, 71; Lord Sutherland, 63; Miss Joan Walley, MP, 46; Mr Brian Wright, chief constable, Dorset, 59.

Today's royal engagement

Princess Alexandra will visit the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond at 11.00.

St Simon Zelotes

On St Valentine's Day, February 14, a special service will be held at 6.30 at St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea, for all who were married or who have had their marriage blessed at the church. The service will be in the form of thanksgiving and renewal of marriage vows. A party will be held afterwards.

Margaret Bowden

A memorial service for Miss Margaret Bowden, former Headmistress of Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace, will be held on Friday, February 17, at 11am in St Mary's, Bourne Street.

Nature notes

On winter nights, tree-toes often roost in the soft bark of wellingtonia trees. They dig a little hollow in the shape of an egg-cup, sit inside it, and fluff out their feathers all round them. In daytime they hunt for insect eggs on tree-trunks, working their way up one tree, then flying down to the base of another and starting again.

Nuthatches also hold on to tree-trunks to feed, and can even walk along the underside of a bough. They are noisier than the tree-toes, their whistling note like a stone skimming over the ice on a frozen pond. Rooks are sitting round their old nests in the rookeries on mild mornings, but they have not yet begun to repair them for the coming season. They can fly as well as sit there. On hazel trees, the

catkins are growing longer and yellow. These catkins are the male flowers. The female flowers are like tiny red stars and are just beginning to open.
On common sallow and great sallow bushes, some of the silvery male catkins have burst out of their buds: they are like small furry paws ranged all along the twigs. DJM

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Philipp Jakob Spener, theologian and founder of Pietism, Rappoltswiller, Alsace, 1635; Stendhal (Marie Henri Beyle) novelist, Grenoble, 1783.
Edouard Manet, painter, Paris, 1832; Edith Wharton, novelist, New York, 1892; Subhas Chandra Bose, Indian nationalist, Cuttack, Orissa, 1897; Sergei Eisenstein, film director, Riga, Russia, 1898.
DEATHS: William Baffin, navigator, Persian Gulf, 1622; William Caslon the Elder, type founder, London, 1766; William Pitt the Younger, Prime Minister 1783-1801 and 1804-06, London, 1806; John Field, composer, Moscow, 1837; Sir Francis Burdett, politician, London, 1844.

Julius Charles Hare, clergyman and scholar, Hurstmonceux, 1855; Thomas Love Peacock, novelist, Lower Hailford, Middlesex, 1866; Charles Kingsley, writer, London, 1875; Gustave Doré, illustrator, Paris, 1883.
Eugene Labiche, dramatist, Paris, 1888; Anna Pavlova, prima ballerina, The Hague, 1931; Dame Clara Butt, contralto, North Stoke, Oxfordshire, 1936.

Edvard Munch, painter, Oslo, 1944; Pierre Bonnard, painter, Le Cannet, France, 1947; Sir Alexander Korda, film producer, London, 1956.
Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Philadelphia, 1962; Samuel Barber, composer, New York, 1981; Salvador Dalí, painter, Figueras, Spain, 1989.

Fletcher Christian and *The Bounty* mutineers landed on Pitcairn Island, 1790.
Ramsay MacDonald formed the first Labour Government, 1924.
The proceedings of the House of Lords were televised for the first time, 1955.

The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The meeting which was to have been addressed by the Polish Foreign Minister, Andrzej Olechowski, at 5.30pm on Tuesday, January 24, 1995, has been cancelled.



Horse-drawn buses in the Strand, 1900; below, Tom Hassell, of the historic monuments commission, sifts the treasures

Views recaptured of lost London

RARE photographs of London streets and buildings destroyed by time, war or redevelopment are once again available to the public.
A newly opened search room at the National Monuments Record means visitors will be able to view prints that include the only known pictures of many London

churches that have disappeared. They can also consult a reference library containing 1500 titles on architecture and the capital's history.
Visitors to the search room, in Blandford Street, central London, will have access to the National Monuments Record Centre in Swindon, Wiltshire.



Schools

Loughborough Grammar School 1995 is the 500th anniversary of the founding of Loughborough Grammar School. The Bishop of London will preside at the Bampton Service in St Paul's Cathedral at 11.15am on Thursday, March 30. A celebration concert will take place in the Royal Concert Hall on Saturday, March 18. The CCF will be inspected by Air Vice-Marshal A.J. Stables, Air Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell, on Saturday, May 13. The Old Loughburiens' Quinquennial Reunion will take place at the school over the weekend of July 1-2 culminating in a performance of *Carmen* in the school hall, with fireworks, by the choir and performing arts symphony orchestra. A ball will be held at the school on July 8. During the summer the 1st and 2nd Rugby Teams will undertake a world tour and an expedition will be made to rescue food and supplies in Hushie, the highest village in Baltistan, and climb Gendro Peak. For details of these and other events contact the School on 01509 232323. Loughborough Grammar School is a registered charity which exists to educate boys.

West Hill Park School
Today is the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of West Hill Park School by Mr Charles A. Ransome. There will be a celebration ball on June 17 and a dinner for the Old Boys and Girls Association later in the year. Anyone wishing to attend either event please contact E.P.K. Hudson, the Headmaster.

Tower House School
John Townsend is retiring after 30 years at Tower House School, East Sheen, SW14. Would any old boys or parents who would like to be remembered to him, please write to: Friends of Tower House, 6 Sheen Common Drive, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 5BN.

Airport terminal is model of stress-free travelling

By MARCUS BINNEY

THE elegant new terminal at Southampton Airport opens a new era in value for money architecture. At 56.5 million, its cost - square foot for square foot - is half that of any other passenger facility erected by the British Airports Authority.

The terminal's good looks come from its swooping silhouette and sleek silvered aluminium cladding. The architect is Michael Manser, former president of Riba. He says: "It's basically a Dutch barn with two lean-tos. The

swept-up roofs are created by bending standard steel beams. We've avoided the need for any rain water gutters taking the rain down through the dip in the roof." The previous terminal at Southampton, a former Spitfire works, was much prized by regular passengers for its convenience - easy check-in, short walking distances, plentiful cheap car parking and a railway station no more than 50 yards away. All those features are preserved in the new terminal a model in stress-free travel.

"By using large roof lights, we have ensured that the air

terminal can be run without electric lighting for most of the year," Mr Manser said. "Our brief was to build something that was extremely economical but looked special. The only way to get low cost, good looks is by careful design."

Until recently, 90 per cent of flights from Southampton were to the Channel Islands, but now the airport is establishing regular daily flights to about 20 destinations in Britain and continental Europe making it an attractive alternative for business travellers in Hampshire and along the South Coast.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
COMMODORE J. Band to Hantsport in HMS, 8/1/95; B. W. Bryant to Hantsport in HMS, 4/1/95; D. J. Harris to MOD London, 23/1/95; D. A. H. Smith to Sultan AIR, 21/1/95; D. G. Snelson to Ministry of Defence, 1/1/95; S. H. Williams to MOD London, 4/1/95.
ROYAL AIR FORCE
Air Vice-Marshal C. G. Terry to be Chief of Staff at Headquarters Logistics Command in succession to Air Marshal Sir John Willis, February 24.
Air Vice-Marshal P. D. Maddy to be Director General of Support Services in succession to Air Vice-Marshal C. G. Terry, February 2.
GROUP CAPTAIN R. A. Canning to MOD, 23/1/95; D. A. Williams to MOD, 23/1/95; J. Rose to HQ PASS, 23/1/95.
WING COMMANDER D. T. Biles to HQ Airworthiness, 23/1/95; F. F. Williams to RAF Brize Norton, 23/1/95.

Retirements
COMMANDER: S. J. Pether, 23/1/95; H. A. Powell, 2/1/95; A. France, 5/1/95.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Lesley Bentley, Curate, St Luke, Barnworth, to be Vicar, St Philip, Westbrook (Liverpool).
The Rev Neville Brook, Vicar, Great Staughton, to be Chaplain to the Mothers' Union (Ripon).
The Rev Derrick Cooing, Vicar, St David's, Betws, Gwent (Monmouth), to be priest-in-charge, Purleigh and Cold Norton w Stow Maries (Chelmsford).
The Rev Andrew Furlong, previously Rector, Melksham, and honorary canon of Hereford Cathedral (Hereford, Wiltshire), to be Assistant Chaplain, Leeds General Infirmary (Ripon).
Canon Dr Robin Greenwood, Diocesan Missionary and director of lay training, diocese of Gloucester, to be Ministry Development Officer diocese of Chelmsford.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Evans and Miss N.J. Wheeler

The engagement is announced between David John, son of Mr and Mrs John Evans, of Longdon Green, Staffordshire, and Nicholas Jane, daughter of the late Mr John Wheeler and of Mrs Wheeler, of Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Mr L.J. Fitzpatrick and Miss P.C. MacGeorge

The engagement is announced between Ian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. Fitzpatrick, of Hove, East Sussex, and Philippa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.B. MacGeorge, of Milland, Hampshire.

Mr M.C. Johns and Miss E. H. Saffron Vasey

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of the late Commander Simon Johns, RN, and of Mrs Simon Johns, and Saffron, elder daughter of Lord Vasey and Kathryn, Lady Vasey.

Count Umberto Pasquelli d'Onde and Miss R.M.B. Portman

The engagement is announced between Umberto, son of Count Pasquelli d'Onde and Contessa Visconti di Modrone, of Rome, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Berkeley Portman, of Lycombe, West Sussex. The marriage will take place in Italy in June.

Mr H.W.T. Pepper and Miss E.B. Walker

The engagement is announced between Harry, second son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Pepper, of Stissingham, Kent, and Kathryn, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs S.C. Walker and of Mrs Patricia Walker, of Epton, North Yorkshire.

Mr S.K. Post and Miss Lara Ignatieff

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr E.W. Post and Mrs L.A. Post, of Chichester, Dorsetshire, and Lara Ignatieff, of Moscow, Dumfriesshire.

Mr C.J.G. Maffins and Miss G.N. Geddes

The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mrs Jennifer Maffins, of St Martin, Jersey, Channel Islands, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Gardner, of Lilley, Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr A.M. Littlefield and Miss E. Bradley

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place shortly, between Antony Littlefield, of Hampstead, London, and Elaine Bradley, of St. Henry-on-Thames, Oxon.

Mr N.C. Smith and Miss E.W. Lewis

The engagement is announced, from Switzerland, between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher John Smith, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Beverly, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Whitson Lewis, of Hurst Green, Kent.

Mr H.G. Williams and Miss E.P. Wiser

The engagement is announced between Hamish, second son of the late Francis Williams and of Miss Francis Williams, of Denbury, Essex, and Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Dipl Ing Thomas Wiser, and of Dr Elizabeth Wiser, of Vienna.

Latest wills

The film star Peter Cushing left estate valued at £282,163 gross, £26,302 net.

Probate was granted to Joyce and Bernard Cushing, of Hove, Sussex, who looked after the actor for many years after his wife, Helen, died in 1971.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
John Ayres, of Horton Kirby, Kent, £844,270

Mr Alan Cadbury, of Leobury, Herefordshire, £1,555,294

Mr Richard Douglas Castle, of Epping, Essex, £549,779

Mr Graham Robin Clark, of Cranborne, Dorset, £596,271

Mr John Day, of Cuddesheugh, Suffolk, £798,428

Rosebella Day, of Cuddesheugh, Suffolk, sister of the above, £14,866

Mrs Mary England, of Sheffield, £595,407

Mr Donald Gibson, of Beverley, Humberside, £850,965

Mr Leslie Osborne Hart, of Sutton, south London, £822,916

Mr Ernest Romilly Mansfield, of Ashby de la Zouche, Leics, £286,733

Mr John McElroy, of Walsingham, Norfolk, £1,049,586

Kathleen Margaret Sylvia Manser, of Aberfeldy, Perth, £1,723,373

Pamela Fitzgerald Roddie, of Hindhead, Surrey, £516,998

Mr Frederick Roger Bentley, of Huddersfield, £865,997

Mr Frederick Richard Bird, of Ingateside, Essex, £1,091,889

Mr Peter Walker Burke, of Bolinas, Essex, £1,739,318

Mr Joseph Henry Dwyer, of Bodelyke, Essex, £700,327

Mr David John Duffield, of Worthing, West Sussex, £593,222

Mrs Lucy Harris, of Chislehurst, Somerset, £516,009

Mr Alan Charles Heald, of Weymouth, Dorset, £586,730

Mr Kenneth Jenkins, of Didsley, Cheshire, £705,779

Mr John Thompson, of High Heston, Cheshire, £598,918

Mr Thomas Woodward, of Wokingham, Northamptonshire, £770,022

Miss Adela Rachel Lecky-Widger, of Ambleside, Cumbria, £1,766,429

Mr Richard Forsyth Allen, of Bath, Avon, £523,006

American view of Thames reappears

By JOHN SHAW

A PAINTING showing the view of the Thames from Twickenham Hill, a study lost to time, is expected to make over £400,000 at auction.

It was the work of Jasper Francis Cropsey (1823-1900) and last appeared on the market in 1963. Since then its whereabouts have been a mystery. The painting now returns as the property of an unidentified English institution to whom it was left in the late 1960s. It will be sold by Bonhams on March 16.

Its reappearance is a significant discovery for 19th-century American art. Cropsey was a leading figure in the Hudson River School, a group of landscape artists who specialised in often idealised and romantic visions of the American scene. He was born on Staten Island and studied painting while serving an architectural apprenticeship in New York. Cropsey made two trips to Europe in 1864 and 1865. The second lasted seven years. He set up a studio at 2 Kensington Gate where he became friendly with Ruskin and others.

He was persuaded to Queen Victoria and was the American Commissioner for the London Exposition in 1862. It was the year he painted the Richmond study, a large panoramic view looking down the hill to the Thames. The vantage point is just below the Star and Garter Inn, a favourite place for smart dinner parties in the 19th century.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
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PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Let us know your name and address in the column and we will send you a copy of the column.

BIRTHS

BYGOTT-WISE - On 15th January 1995 to Mr and Mrs John Bygott-Wise, a son, Arthur John.

GOODALL - On 28th January 1995 to Mr and Mrs John Goodall, a son, Henry John.

HARRISON - On 28th January 1995 to Mr and Mrs John Harrison, a son, John.

SPAIN - On 28th January 1995 to Mr and Mrs John Spain, a son, John.

STEVENSON - On 28th January 1995 to Mr and Mrs John Stevenson, a son, John.

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

BRADSHAW - In London on 15th January 1995, Edward Bradshaw, 85, of 15, St. John's Road, London, died.

CHURCHILL - In London on 15th January 1995, Edward Churchill, 85, of 15, St. John's Road, London, died.

COLE - In London on 15th January 1995, Edward Cole, 85, of 15, St. John's Road, London, died.

DEATHS

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DEATHS

COMFORT - In London on 15th January 1995, Edward Comfort, 85, of 15, St. John's Road, London, died.

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CRICKET

25

Finger of fate points Stewart to England sidelines



RUGBY UNION

27

England blow hot to defeat gales in Dublin



TENNIS

31

At ease in the court of Queen Martina



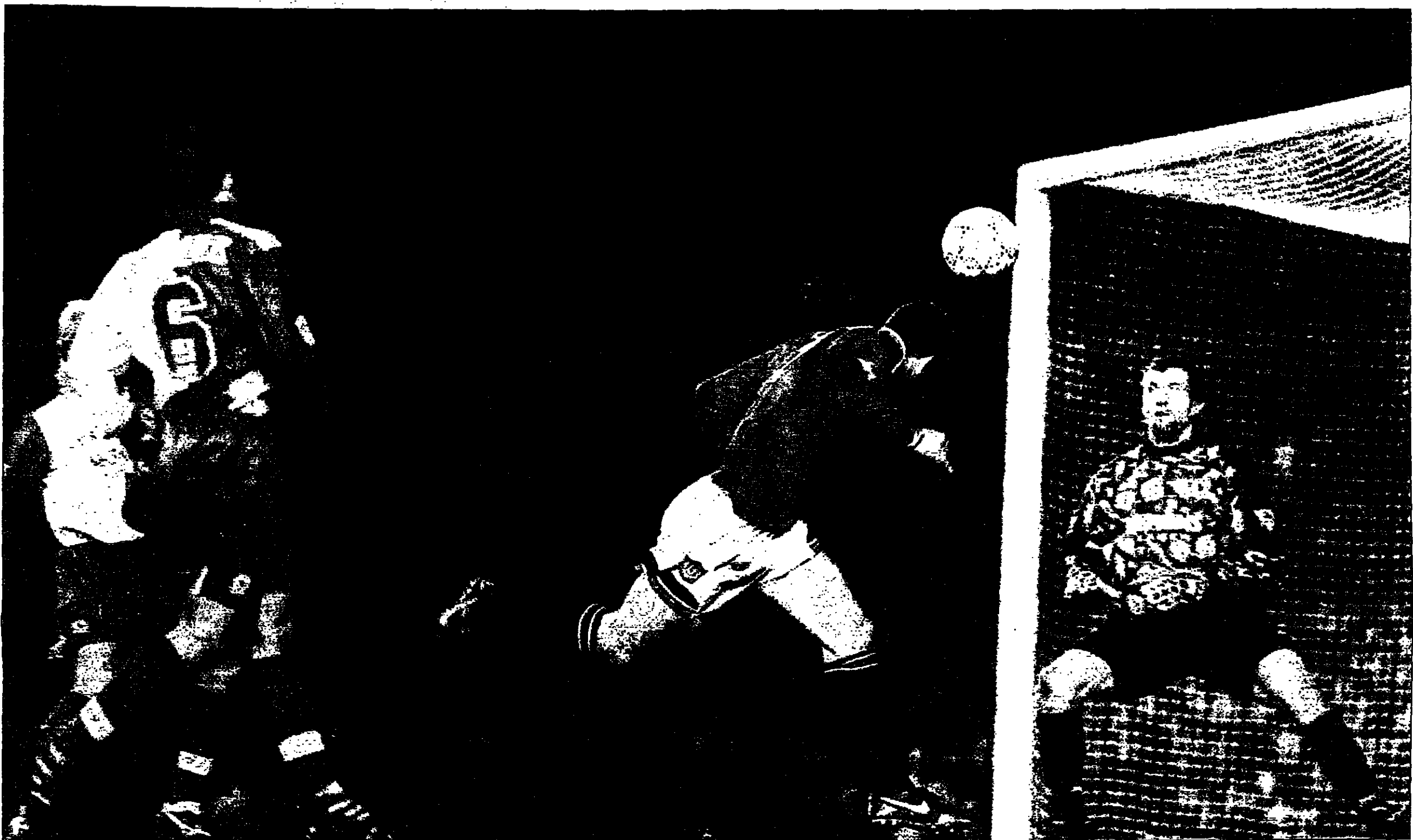
SCHOOLS SPORT

35

Kid-glove approach puts boxing in a class of its own



TIMES SPORT



Cantona stretches to head the goal past Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, that lifted Manchester United's title aspirations at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

United close gap at the top on negative Blackburn

Cantona makes Rovers pay

Manchester United 1
Blackburn Rovers 0

BY DAVID MILLER

MANCHESTER United and Blackburn Rovers each got exactly what their respective performances deserved, never mind that Blackburn were disallowed a last-gasp equalising goal. Football at its best is about magic and glory, and there was little of either about Blackburn.

A critical victory for the league champions in this FA Cup replay against Newcastle United, who owed little or nothing to Andy Cole, their much-overpriced new centre forward, who was never better than a peripheral figure. The winning touch, in the eighteenth minute, came from a marvellous combination between the two cleverest players on the field, Giggs and Cantona.

Kenny Dalglish has spent more than £20 million assembling his team, yet came to Old Trafford with no ambition other than to prevent Manchester United from playing football and to steal a point. It is a reflection of the relative attraction of the two teams that the crowd yesterday was almost twice that at Ewood Park for last Wednesday's FA Cup replay against Newcastle United. Blackburn do not excite minds beyond the Ribbles Valley, indeed, not even as far down the road as Burnley.

All managers are excusably prone to intensely subjective assessment immediately after a match, but on this occasion

I'm more inclined to agree with Alex Ferguson than with Dalglish. Ferguson said it would have been "a travesty if we hadn't won". It would, indeed, Dalglish complained that both encounters this season had been determined by referees' decisions, which remains arguable.

I did not see Berg's sending-off at Blackburn, which had tipped the balance towards United in a 4-2 victory — Blackburn's last defeat, on October 23, since when they have drawn once and won 11 times — but the decision yesterday seemed justifiable.

With Blackburn hurling the ball forward in a desperate last series of attacks, and with less than two minutes remaining, a long, diagonal cross

from Berg dropped towards Keane and Shearer on the left of United's penalty area. As they rose together, Shearer's outstretched left hand nudged Keane between the shoulder blades, helping to cause Keane to miss the ball and enabling Shearer to head square to Sherwood, who headed past Schmeichel.

The give-away response, in the light of heated debate that continued afterwards, is that Shearer, seeing that the goal had been disallowed, walked away without vigorous protest.

Yet, if you play persistently with 11 men behind the ball, including £8 million worth of strikers: if your plan of attack is chiefly to hump the ball forward, or wide to Wilcox in

the hope he can cross it; if a third of the play takes place in your defensive third of the field, as opposed to less than one fifth of the play in your opponents', it seems to me there is small cause for complaint about defeat. All the heat, on an afternoon when the players' breath left puffs of cotton wool in the air, now came from United.

In the first quarter of an hour of the second half, United temporarily faltered as they failed to find a way through the blue maze of Blackburn shirts. This was the spell during which the league leaders might have stolen victory and widened their lead to eight points, rather than the two it has become.

What was puzzling was

Ferguson's decision to leave Kanchelskis on the bench, only introducing the winger as substitute for Sharpe just under a quarter of an hour from the end.

Giggs is happier on the left, and it was within three minutes of his switch to replace the departing Sharpe that Giggs's enlightened moment brought Cantona's spectacular winner.

And Cole? His best opening came with the match less than two minutes run. A ball floated forward by McClair cleared Hendry, the Scotland central defender, who as ever was the rock on which Blackburn's resistance was founded. In the split second in which a Law or a Best would have put the bouncing ball away, Cole hesitated, finally bundling his shot wide.

Thereafter, however, Cole seldom bothered Hendry or Warhurst. Occasionally, he would control and hold the ball with his back to goal, in the manner of Hughes, the man he was bought to replace. Otherwise, a combination of Blackburn's physical strength and sheer numbers repeatedly smothered him.

The first half flew by in no time at all, an indication of the excitement and attention that gripped everyone present in the packed stadium. Flowers needed to plunge to his right early on to turn away a shot deflected by Hendry, with United rampant, but although United were streaming forward their nearest chance of the first half came on the stroke of half-time. A low cross by Keane — ostensibly playing at right back — was scrambled

away to the left by Hendry, then rolled back to Ince, whose blistering low drive was fumbled by Flowers and spun narrowly to safety.

Simon set up Wilcox for a shot early in the second half which screwed away out of control, and twice Shearer saw half-chances come and go, but Blackburn's counter-attacking policy, though dangerous, seldom prospered and now United were again calling the tune. Cole vainly wondering how he might get into the match. In yet one more attack.

Cole's debut 28
Clean-up on cards 28
Newcastle held 29
Results and tables 30
Win a United shirt 31

Giggs, fed by the elusive Cantona on the left, seemed to have lost the ball to Berg, regaining it with a lunge of his left leg.

Quickly he curled the ball across the penalty area and Cantona, who in anticipation had shrewdly run for the far post, scored with a header into the roof of the net from the most acute of angles. That goal deserved the spoils, though Blackburn will long argue about the way they were denied.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel — R. Keane, S. Bruce, G. Poyet, D. Morrison — R. Goss, B. McClair, P. Ince, I. Sharpe (subs: A. Kanchelskis, 76m) — E. Cantona — A. Cole.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — H. Berg, C. Hendry, P. Warhurst, G. Le Sueur — J. Wilcox (subs: M. Stewart, 89m, M. Adams, 100m), P. Peters, 69m, T. Sherwood, A. Wright — C. Sutton, A. Shearer.
Referee: P. Durkin.



Cole runs out for his first appearance in a Manchester United shirt yesterday

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THE LOAN CORPORATION

Dublin sees Rowell suffering from exposure

FROM the moment Steve Rider stepped on to the gale-swept pitch at Lansdowne Road, we all knew we were in for plan B — B for boring. How? Because Jack Rowell, one of the few England team managers not to require the prefix "beleaguered", had spent all week telling us.

Rowell was everywhere. From BBC2's *Rugby Special* to Sky's *The Rugby Club* via Eddie Butlers' *Five Nations* Preview on BBC1, there was Rowell, eloquently explaining the differences between plan A, the open attacking style England demonstrated against Canada and Romania, and plan B, the grim alternative. Just in case you had missed one of the umpteen appearances, up he popped again on Saturday afternoon with an interview with Rider that the

Grandstand editor must have thought twice about showing. "I would not like to get caught up on a rainy, blowy day, because that makes most ball games, including rugby, very difficult," Rowell said. On a rainy, blowy Saturday in Dublin, it is remarks like that that make presenting *Grandstand* very difficult. Still, the bad weather did have some compensations — Mick Skinner's now traditionally garish garb spent the afternoon concealed beneath a huge raincoat. What I want to know (apart from whose idea was Keith Floyd?) is who let Skinner into the tunnel? It was a horrible sight.

In the build-up to the first weekend of the five nations' championship, only one thing came close to rivaling Rowell in terms of number of tele-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

vision appearances. It was The Red Lion, Teddington, which for the week became the most famous pub in England, ironically because it was the family home of the Ireland stand-off half, Paul Burke. Regulars must have died of thirst, as camera crews jostled with each other for yet another bar-side interview with Burke's father/mother/elderly female fan/coach who first introduced him to mini-rugby. Given this mountain of advance publicity, it was hardly

surprising that Bill McLaren fell into the trap of announcing midway through the second half that "an awful lot of Burkes have come over from Teddington today". That forgivable solecism apart, McLaren had a cracking game, beginning the international season far more confidently than he began the last. Now fully on top of rule changes that still defeat many of the game's armchair fans, McLaren was back on song. After all, it is not Bill's fault

that they were not dancing in the streets of Teddington on Saturday night.

But having a less happier afternoon was Bill Beaumont, who was low-key even by his own downbeat standards. Others have already questioned how long Beaumont's relaxed, slightly bumbling style will keep him in the captain's chair for *A Question of Sport*. How long it keeps him in the BBC's commentary box is quite another question, but if England win the five nations and the World Cup and Harlequins are relegated (three big ifs, Billy), he may find himself making room rather sooner than expected. If the boy Lineker can have his own show, why not the boy Carling?

Not that Carling can expect a clear run for any vacancy in

the BBC commentary box, or indeed for any future vacancy that might arise on the rather enjoyable *Rugby Special*. For there is a veritable scrum of former England players polishing up their media skills. Leading the pack is probably Stuart Barnes, who anchors the live club games that Sky broadcasts to a so-far ungrateful nation with considerable intelligence and wit. Close behind is summariser and presenter of *The Rugby Club*, Jamie Salmon. He would be closer still if he looked as happy talking to the camera as he clearly is talking tactics. But with a whole raft of England pin-ups expected to announce their retirement after the World Cup, the real danger is being trampled in the rush. Now that should see some real argy-bargy.

Unhurried Couples cruises to Desert win

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

THE languid swing that generates such power, the unhurried air and demeanour that make him look so relaxed and a sense of guilt at his unprofessional performance at this event last year, all combined to help Fred Couples win the Desert Classic in Dubai yesterday.

The 1992 US Masters champion added a round of 66 to finish 20-under par and three strokes ahead of Colin Montgomerie.

Couples had been tied on 14-under par with Montgomerie after 54 holes, and as early as the second hole yesterday, which Couples birdied by hitting his approach shot to two feet, he took the lead. He was never again to lose it. Montgomerie had his work cut out to gain second place and he achieved it by holing a 12-foot putt for a birdie on the 18th for a 69.

Michael Campbell, 25, a Maori from Wellington, New Zealand, who is playing in his first season on the European Tour, had 14 birdies and an eagle in his last two rounds.

This stirring finale brought a reward for Campbell. He tied with Nick Price and Wayne Riley on 16 under par. They were one stroke ahead of Greg Norman and two ahead of Ernie Els, the defending champion. Couples's 20 under par equals the record that Els set last year.

The swing of Couples has long been a model of grace and timing, a marvel of the contemporary world of golf.

He is one of the biggest hitters in the game. "I have strong legs and strong wrists and I generate a lot of clubhead speed through the ball," Couples explained.

When he puts that length to good use, as he did this week by being a total of 15 under par for the 16 par fives, then he has a considerable advantage.

Montgomerie was longer last season than in previous ones and now says he is longer still with his new clubs. Even so, he said, Couples was about ten yards longer than him. "Fred drove very long and very straight today," Montgomerie said. "The extra ten or 15 yards he had over me was a tremendous advantage on a course like this."

This was Montgomerie's sixth campaign in the desert and by far his best finish. He did confess to a slight disappointment, however, in that, after being 16 under par after 39 holes, he improved by only one more stroke over the next 33. Europe's leading money-winner earned \$50,000 Ryder Cup points and sets off for the Philippines for what you might call round two of the world tour later this week in good heart.

Two holes told the story of why it was the American's day and not Montgomerie's. On the ninth, Couples hit a magnificent 160-yard six-iron over the lake that guards the green to within four feet of the hole. On the 12th, a long, uphill par four that curls to the left, he hit a three-iron 192 yards to four feet once again.

These were superb strokes and Montgomerie could not match them. On the ninth, he chipped too far past the flag. Though he had saved his par on the two previous holes with good putts, from 15 feet on the short seventh and eight feet on the eighth, he could not do so a third successive time. That was a two-stroke swing. When Couples birdied the 13th, Montgomerie fell three strokes behind. "Those were the key shots," Couples said. "The ninth, the 12th and the 13th."

Couples's pride drove him to perform better here than he had in 1994, when he arrived too late to acclimatise and missed the cut. He regarded that as conduct unbecoming a professional of his stature and it spurred him on this year.

November is normally Couples's month. He has won \$4 million in this month since 1990, including \$600,000 two months ago. He knew he was in good form in January, too, when he tied for fifth in the opening event on the US Tour, at the beginning of the month. Then he flew to Dubai in time for two days' practice. The results were clear for all to see.

Nick Faldo, returning to the US Tour after five years, carded his third successive 70 to stand nine shots behind the leaders in the Northern Telecom Open in Tucson, Arizona. Phil Mickelson, the overnight leader, had a round of 70 to share the lead after three rounds with Brett Ogilvie, of Australia, and Jim Gallagher. Ogilvie shot a 68, four under par, and Gallagher 69 to stand with Mickelson at 20, 14 under par, heading into the final round. Don Pooley, whose 65 was the lowest round of the day, Scott Simpson, with a 68, and Paul Stankowski, with a 69, were one stroke behind.

Tomba's invincible run continues



ALBERTO TOMBA, above, on his way to winning his ninth successive World Cup slalom race in Wengen, Switzerland, yesterday, is building a huge psychological advantage to add to the points differential he enjoys over his rivals. He sped effortlessly down both runs on the 58-gate course to finish 1.32sec ahead of Michael von Gruenigen, of Switzerland.

"I don't know myself how I do it," a jubilant Tomba said after rushing to greet his followers in typically exuberant fashion. Von Gruenigen, whose

sentiments were echoed by many fellow competitors, said: "At the moment, he's in sensational form. It's impossible to beat him."

Tomba, dubbed "La Bomba" because of his explosive style, has won all the World Cup slaloms and two of the four giant slaloms this season. It was his ninth consecutive slalom victory because he won the last two slaloms in the 1993-94 season.

Rainer Mutschler, the Germany women's coach, yesterday called for the world championships in Sierra

Nevada to be put off until conditions are right. The opening ceremony is due to take place on Sunday in the Spanish resort, but a shortage of snow has hampered preparations.

Picabo Street, of the United States, gained her second World Cup downhill victory of the season yesterday. The Olympic silver medal-winner clocked 1min 24.75sec in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, to finish ahead of Barbara Merfin, the home favourite, and Katja Seizinger, of Germany, the Olympic champion, in third.

Leeds canter keeps title race alive

Leeds.....30
Warrington.....0

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT WAS in 1990 that Leeds last mounted a real challenge in the Stones Bitter rugby league championship: a year, too, in which Wigan's stranglehold on the title began. Six points in Wigan's case, five points clear of a pack seemingly commiserating rather than chasing, a two-horse race between the game's accepted giants is coming nicely to the boil.

A six-try stroll yesterday, an eleventh successive league win by Leeds, restored their lead of the first division, which Wigan should reclaim tomorrow at Doncaster in one of two matches they have in hand.

Warrington's role in an error-riddled encounter at

Headingley will hardly have inspired confidence before they meet Wigan in the Regal Trophy final on Saturday. They were, frankly, awful, with Jonathan Davies, their usual inspiration, having the proverbial stinker.

Forster got thoroughly fed up of the sight of Craig Innes scampering past him down the right.

The former New Zealand rugby union threequarter is not a big accumulator of tries, but tripled his tally for the season with three in the opening 22 minutes, and was on the end of a flowing back-line move for his fourth early in the second half.

"The bounce of the ball went my way," Innes said, an understatement in the case of his first and second tries, both the products of astute kicks by Schofield. Warrington hardly lacked possession, just the

clean hands to do anything with it. Defensively, their organisation left much to be desired, as Howard underlined, knocking defenders down like bowling pins to help Leeds to a ten-point lead in the twelfth minute.

Howard and Faimalo pro-

vided the bludgeon that allowed Leeds their cutting edge in a pacy attack. Innes's third try was a sparkling effort, but Leeds lacked the same zest and zip after the interval. The case of dropsy that afflicted Warrington spread to the home side in the half-hour separating Innes's fourth try and one begun and

finished by Fallon, as Warrington struggled after Cullen was sent to the sin bin for dissent.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Innes (4), Howard, Fallon; Goals: Holroyd (3). LEADS: A. Tait, J. Fallon, K. Ito (sub N. Harrison, S. Innes, F. Cummings, G. Schofield, G. Holroyd, H. Howard, J. Lowe, G. G. M. 34, E. Farnham, G. Mercer, P. Eyles, E. Harty (sub Lowe, 73).

WARRINGTON: J. Davies, M. Forster, J. Harris, J. Rogers, L. Penty, A. Schofield, G. Mackay, B. McGuire (sub Sanderson, 70), T. Barrow (sub A. Barnett, 58), G. Sanderson (sub Cullen, 34), P. Derrythine, P. Cullen (sub D. White, 29), M. Warrington (sub A. B. 35).

Beverly repeated their feat of 1990, becoming the first amateur club since then to beat professional opponents in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The National Conference League first division side won 27-4 at Highfield, the second division bottom club, and were the only amateurs yesterday to advance to the fourth-round draw today when the first division clubs enter the competition.

Teddington move inspires vital victory

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

A GOAL by Andy Billson with only three minutes left broke Surbiton's resistance and gave Teddington an important 1-0 victory in the National Hockey League at Sugden Road yesterday.

Laslett moved from midfield into the attack in the second half and it was his pass that enabled Billson to score. Miles, the Surbiton goalkeeper, kept them in the game. He made four saves from eight shots. Surbiton's best scoring chance was lost a minute before the interval when an angled shot by Tinkler sped across the goal.

The result did not displace Surbiton from the top of the first division. Ted-

dington, who could have overtaken them, had their match against Canterbury on Saturday postponed because of bad weather.

Cannock, with ten goals in two days, moved into second position with a 6-0 home victory over Bournville. Organ scoring twice. In their 4-0 win over Indian Gymkhana on Saturday, Mills scored twice for Cannock.

Old Loughtonians, who beat Guildford 2-1, ended the day in third position on goal difference. Nick Thompson, under automatic suspension for 16 days after being sent off in the indoor final at Crystal Palace on Friday, was missing from the Old Loughtonians' team whose goals were scored yesterday by Barker

and Krishnan. Jennings replied for Guildford from a short corner.

Southgate, after a 2-0 victory over Reading on Saturday, took up the chase with a 1-0 away win yesterday over Havant. Woods scoring in the 55th minute. Potter's goal in the 60th minute from a penalty stroke was enough to give Hounslow a 1-0 victory over Firebrand.

Andy Humphrey, of Hull, was sent off in the 53rd minute of the 1-1 draw with Slough. His automatic suspension will cost him a trip to India for the Indira Gandhi tournament in Delhi. Barford Tigers retained the leadership of the second division with a 4-2 win over Whitechurch. Nisar Chaudry scored twice for Barford.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Seeds have a poor day at Newport

THE bookmakers William Hill, who were allowed to open on-site betting on the Sabbath for the first time yesterday, enjoyed a highly profitable debut at the Regal Welsh Open in Newport.

Yesterday had a whole string of early results which made the form book look stupid.

The first of the seeds to fall was Tony Drago, who lost 5-0 to Anthony Bolsover, the world number 128 from Sheffield. Bolsover's opponent tomorrow will be Jeff Cundy, a snooker club manager from Scunthorpe. Cundy beat Tony Knowles 5-1.

The most unexpected outcome of all, however, was a 5-4 defeat for Ken Doherty, last year's winner, by Michael Judge, a fellow Dubliner.

Jury rules yacht illegal

YACHTING: As Marc Pajot's hapless America's Cup challenger, France 2, raced against the Spanish to see which team would finish without a win in the round-robin trials, he faced troubles on another front when his second boat was ruled illegal. Pajot, who is facing criticism for the lack of results from the US \$25 million of government aid that has been pumped into his campaign, had high hopes that his second boat, due to replace France 2 in the second trials, which start next weekend, would be a winner. However, the cup jury has ruled that Ken McAlpine, the chief measurer, was correct in rejecting the boat on technical grounds.

Hooper misses tour

CRICKET: Carl Hooper, right, the West Indies all-rounder, has not recovered from the virus that he contracted during the recent tour of India and will not join his team in New Zealand. An unbeaten 55 from 32 balls by Brian Lara carried West Indies to a nine-wicket win over New Zealand in the first one-day international in Auckland yesterday.



Clarke clinches bronze

CYCLING: Barrie Clarke, the national cyclo-cross open champion, finished third in the Northallerton international race yesterday, the last event of the National Trophy series, to secure the bronze medal. The series winner was decided seven weeks ago when Roger Hammond gained his third victory from three starts. Hammond was absent yesterday and Pascal van Reit, of Belgium, won the race.

Gooch speeds to silver

SPEED SKATING: Nicky Gooch, the Olympic bronze medal-winner at 500 metres, won a silver medal at the European championship in Graz, Austria on Saturday and broke the British record. Gooch finished second to Mirko Vuillermin, of Italy, who broke his world record with a time of 42.99sec. Gooch's time of 43.19sec regained him the British record from Wilf O'Reilly, who finished fourth.

Priestley saves point

ICE HOCKEY: A successful penalty shot by Ken Priestley with less than two minutes remaining salvaged a 6-6 draw for Sheffield Steelers in their home game with Cardiff Devils in the British League premier division. However, Nottingham Panthers moved ahead of them at the top of the table after beating Durham Wasps 7-3. The struggling Bracknell Bees and Milton Keynes Kings both lost.

Gordon prevents rout

TABLE TENNIS: Alison Gordon, right, defeated Emilia Ciosu, the former European Top 12 champion, 12-21, 23-21, 21-18, but the England team lost to Romania and to Germany, the hosts, in failing to reach the semi-finals of the European Team Cup in Dulmen yesterday. Ciosu beat Andrea Holt for Romania's 3-1 winning lead. Germany defeated Romania 3-1 in the final.



Olsson joins Cup crew

BOBSLEIGHING: Sean Olsson led his crew to victory in the British championship four-man race in Igls, Austria, and will join Mark Toot and his British team-mates for the last race in the World Cup series, in St Moritz. In the women's World Cup, Michelle Coy and Annette Brown, of Great Britain, finished second to the Swiss team in the fourth race of the five-race series.

Dessum breaks through

SKI JUMPING: Nicolas Dessum yesterday became the first Frenchman to win a World Cup event. In the season's eighth large hill event, at Sapporo, in Japan, Dessum, 17, scored 214.7 points with jumps of 112 metres and 109.5 metres. Takanobu Okabe, who posted 209.2 points with jumps of 99.5 metres and the day's longest leap of 117 metres, was second with Janne Ahonen, of Finland, third.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Plate	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
ANDORRA						
Soldeu	50 90	fair	crust	worn	frie	0 18/1
						(Still good skiing to be found but some worn patches)
AUSTRIA						
Mayrhofen	30 100	good	varied	fair	fair	4 21/1
						(Soft snow on piste due to milder weather)
Schladming	70 130	good	varied	fair	cloud	-1 21/1
						(Pistes generally very good; icy patches on lower runs)
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	110 240	heavy	heavy	heavy	snow	-1 22/1
						(Heavy wet snow falling; tricky conditions)
Courchevel	115 205	fair	heavy	fair	snow	-1 22/1
						(Heavy conditions with fresh snowfall; avalanche danger)
Piains	110 200	good	heavy	fair	snow	3 22/1
						(Superb skiing on well-prepared, deserted pistes)
Tignes	120 135	good	powder	good	snow	-2 22/1
						(Heavy snowfall; poor visibility; outlook good)
Val Thorens	185 250	good	powder	good	snow	0 22/1
						(Heavy snowfall; only lower slopes open)
ITALY						
Cervinia	80 250	good	varied	good	snow	1 22/1
						(Pistes in excellent shape with fresh snow)
SWITZERLAND						
C. Montana	230 280	good	heavy	good	snow	3 22/1
						(Wet snow falling; rain in village; high avalanche risk)
Klosters	85 150	good	varied	good	cloud	5 21/1
						(Excellent skiing in all areas despite milder weather)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper, art - artificial.

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Visitors undone as France turn early resistance into compelling display of attacking rugby

Wales given object lesson in art of ruthless execution

France 21
Wales 9

FROM GERALD DAVIES
IN PARIS

PIERRE BERBIZIER, the France coach, divided this match not into a game of two halves, as is so often the case in sporting-speak — and something he might well have done, so dominant was his team territorially after the interval — but rather into the first 20 minutes and the rest.

Wales had begun this first encounter in the 1995 five nations' championship with surprising urgency and, indeed, control. For the first quarter, they took the game confidently to their opponents. With a flow of possession from the lineout, not only on their throw-in but on that of the French, too, Robert Jones was given the platform from which to launch his testing kicks. Hall to probe in midfield and the two Davies in the back row to drive the French uncomfortable backwards.

Few had expected Wales to start in so authoritative a mood. They had already taken the lead in the second minute with Jenkins having kicked a penalty goal from short range. Holding France in a tight grip, they then went back for more. But, when no more came, the doubts began to grow. For all their advantages of territory and possession, how would Wales succeed in penetrating the French resistance? What tricks had they up their sleeves to create gaps or stretch their opponents?

They were not to do so, and it was France who found that they always had men to spare to cancel out potential threats. This was Berbizier's first period, when his team were without the ball and when they relied on their tackling. What then followed was, as he

categorised it afterwards, a period of movement.

Nothing so becomes a French team as, on sensing a loosening of their opponents' hold or of their growing frustration at getting nowhere, their ability to depart from the static rugby script of set-piece play. Like the release of a coiled spring, they are motivated to stretch their legs and give the ball some air.

Roumat came charging downfield to find not one of his



CHAMPIONSHIP

DETAILS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	2	8	2
France	1	1	0	0	2	9	2
Ireland	1	1	0	1	8	20	0
Wales	1	0	0	0	9	21	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESULTS: Ireland 8 England 20; France 21 Wales 9

FIXTURES: Feb 4: England v France, Scotland v Ireland, Feb 18: Wales v England, France v Scotland, Mar 4: Scotland v Wales, Ireland v France, Mar 18: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland

own size in the way but rather Jenkins, the Wales stand-off half. It was no contest. Sniffing the disarray, the French began to roll, with choices appearing to left and right. Sadoirny was there. So was Cabannes, and Accocebery.

The whole movement had been so quick and ruthless in its execution, and the visitors' weakness — of which there had been no hint hitherto — so

ruthlessly exposed, that the Wales defence was left exhausted. The solitary Walker, who was later to catch his opposite number from behind with a try-saving tackle, had little chance this time of stopping N'Tamack from scoring.

No incident typified the difference between these teams better than this devastating thrust. So seamless and slick was the execution that Wales never looked likely to emulate it. France, for their part, produced more of the same, but Deylaud, Sella and Saint-André each, crucially, looked either the wrong way or took the wrong option.

"We are strong in movement," Berbizier concluded, using the word "movement" like a mantra on Saturday evening. "But we cannot hope to win at Twickenham if we do not take advantage of them." The Wales midfield, chasing here and there, was, on occasions, left unattended as France held sway.

When the next try came, in the 28th minute, four minutes after another penalty goal by Jenkins had again put his team ahead, Wales did have an empty space on their wing. While Hill was gaining attention for a sprained ankle, France exploited his absence and spread the ball wide for Saint-André to score. Lacroix converted from the touchline, then added a penalty goal before half-time.

Hill's injury was not as serious as that which befell Ricky Evans, whose broken tibia and fibula close to his ankle means that Wales's injury misfortune continues. The prop will not play again this season, and it is touch and go for the World Cup. Even before this match, Bob Norster and Alan Davies, the Wales management team, had six of their first choices unavailable. No international team can sustain such blows.



Sadoirny, the France full back, breaks through the Wales defence during his side's 21-9 triumph at the Parc des Princes

Their faith is being tested on biblical proportions.

They congratulated their team for courage and spirit in difficult circumstances. Their problem, however, now that they have partially resolved their recent difficulties of lack of possession, is what to do with it. Wales must take a leaf out of the French book.

If no more tries came France's way in the second half, with Lacroix kicking two more penalty goals to Jenkins's one, they had shown enough during that hour of "movement" to demonstrate that it is the speed with which such possession is used that matters, and which gets tries scored and matches won.

Wales A beat their French counterparts for only the second time on French soil, winning 21-15 at the John Boun Stadium in Paris on Saturday. The previous evening, Wales students had won for the first time in France, 18-9 at Le Creusot.

Tries in the second half for Gareth Taylor, the No 8, and

Paul John, the captain and scrum half, were enough for Wales A in a game marred by the sending off of Olivier Magne, the France A flanker.

SCORERS: France: Tries: T. Magne, S. André; Conversion: Lacroix; Penalty goals: Lacroix (2). Wales: Penalty goals: Jenkins (2).

FRANCE: J. Sadoirny (Captain); E. N'Tamack (Toulouse); P. Sella (Agen); Lacroix (Rugby); P. Saint-André (Montpellier); G. Deylaud (Toulon); G. Accocebery (Bordeaux-Mérignac); L. Berbizier (Paris). WELSH: A. Jenkins (Cardiff); S. D. Hill (Swansea); M. R. Hill (Cardiff); M. Taylor (Pontypool); N. Walker (Cardiff); N. R. Jenkins (Pontypool); R. M. Jones (Swansea); P. I. Jones (Llanelli); G. R. Jones (Swansea); J. D. Davies (Neath); S. Davies (Swansea); J. Jones (Cardiff); G. O. Lewis (Neath); R. G. Collins (Pontypool); P. T. Davies (Llanelli); M. Edwards (Cardiff); M. G. Jones (Cardiff); M. G. Jones (Cardiff).

Referee: N. Pearson (England).

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Character bows to touch of class



ANDREW LONGMORE
At Parc des Princes

Character and attitude. The Welsh talked a lot about character and attitude in the aftermath of another defeat in Paris. "The players showed great character," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said. "Our attitude was good." Robert Norster, his benchman, added. The words are often used by coaches to burnish defeat.

In the bar at the Café des Deux Stades just opposite the main gates of the Parc des Princes, where Welsh and French voices mingled in uncomprehending harmony long after the details of a scrappy match had faded, the same sentiment was being expressed in the more robust language of the terrace. "We tried bloody hard. No disgrace," one red-and-white bearded man shouted across to a group of supporters wearing tricolour scarves, who, instinctively, raised their glasses in salute.

Yet a trust was in danger of being breached in Paris on Saturday, a precious and fragile entente, an understanding that no matter what the Irish, Scots or English might be doing, the Welsh and the French know how the game of rugby should be played. The avalanches of jeers that greeted Neil Jenkins when he hoisted the ball over France's dead-ball line for the fourth time in the first 15 minutes, reflected betrayal

as much as boredom. Jenkins might have been deceived by a treacherous wind, but four times in 15 minutes? Where, the voices asked, was the adventure, the panache, the brio, the danger that used to characterise Welsh rugby? Where was the style? Stifled by the all-embracing blanket of character and attitude.

Acceptable defeat, the protection of morale for more winnable battles ahead, the avoidance of calamity seemed to be at the heart of Welsh strategy at the start of a five-month campaign. From a series of spontaneous explosions, the five nations' championship is in danger of being reduced to a slow-burning fuse, the explosion coming in South Africa in June. A good show in the World Cup and the spiritual poverty of Welsh play in the gusting wind and driving rain of mid-winter in Paris will be long forgotten.

Yet the Welsh were far from being disgraced. They were merely well beaten, outclassed in all the areas of the game that mattered. And

they did try hard and they were depleted by injuries, before and during the match. But if character and attitude are worthy qualities to set before the English, they are of little consequence against the fluidity and imagination of this new vintage French side, who, from time to time, seemed to lose concentration like a schoolboy faced with sums that he can solve too easily.

The French will be fun this year and, if they stick to the principles and forget their Rambo impersonations against England, the match at Twickenham, which will surely decide the championship, will be a classic. They bubble with life and character from back to front and, in Christophe Deylaud, their scamp of a stand-off half, they have a fetchingly chaotic playmaker. Deylaud has earned his nickname of the Toulouse Trump through diligent attention of dishevelment. *Décoiffé*, as the French say, I bet his kit bag is in a terrible state.

From the first minute, his socks were hugging his an-

gles, his shorts billowed in the wind and his straggly curls hung round his face like Medusa. He is 30, too slight to be a stand-off, is, by all accounts, not much of a tactical kicker nor a tackler of steel, but you can tell he loves his rugby and, just as Jenkins's instinct when he gets the ball in his hands is to kick as far upfield as he can, so Deylaud wants to run with it or pass it. Kicking is the third option. He also has courage. Tagged by Richie Collins in the opening stages, he was up and away before the Welshman had regained his feet.

He, above Accocebery, his scrum half, the fluent Sadoirny, at full back, and the ebullient N'Tamack, on the wing, epitomises a side full of mischief and devilry, and, though he was not at his best after recovering from a shoulder injury, by the time the English have into view he will be quite a handful for Dean Richards and company.

Of the rest of the match, little need be told. Conditions deteriorated, making any sort of handling a lottery. The final whistle blew as Garin Jenkins was pinning Christian Califfano to the turf in a private argument 50 yards away from play. It was the only time in the whole afternoon that Wales were on top.

Gritty Scots achieve first objective

Scotland 22
Canada 6

By MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND'S selectors meet tomorrow to pick the side to face Ireland in two weeks with much to ponder. The national team may have ended a dismal run of nine matches without a win on Saturday, but changes are needed, particularly behind the scrum.

The performance, if unconvincing, at least gives Scotland a much-needed boost to morale for their five nations' campaign. With Ireland dismantled by England, the outlook is not so bleak.

While the ills of the past 18 months cannot be corrected overnight, this remodelled Scotland side was under pressure to win and deserves credit for achieving its primary objective at a numbingly cold Murrayfield. While the wretched conditions did not help running rugby, Scotland stuck to their task and the margin of victory could, on another day, have been more emphatic.

The match was a personal triumph for Damian Cronin, recalled after impressive

performances in the A team against South Africa in Italy. A year ago, Cronin's international career appeared over. After the humiliation against New Zealand, Cronin, who believes rugby and life are to be enjoyed, appeared disenchanted.

A year on, a new life, a new club in France and a new business have restored the desire. "I looked at the players who have taken my place and knew I could do better," he said. And so it proved. Cronin, now of Bourges, scored Scotland's try, helped dominate the lineout with Stewart Campbell, a new cap, and twice put in crucial covering tackles.

The match followed a predictable pattern. Scotland confronted, controlled and ultimately subdued Canada, a side that offered little more than dogged defence and a penchant for spoiling tactics.

Ironically, it was Douglas Morgan's first win as coach, and that in the week that he announced he was stepping down after the World Cup. "It was very satisfying to win; Canada are difficult to play against and disruptive," he said.

Gavin Hastings took advantage of that poor discipline by kicking four penalty goals in the first half. Canada's only

response was two early penalty goals by Gareth Rees.

Such was Scotland's dominance up front, they should have had the match wrapped up by the interval. But the old indecision of the back division remained. Once Scotland realised that Scott Stewart, the Canada full back, was infallible under Chalmers's bombs, they began to prosper.

Cronin's try midway through the second half followed an unchallenged run to the line after a clever break by Chalmers. Hastings's wide, hanging conversion made it 19-6. Despite the carcass, he added another penalty goal to take his tally to 17 points and Scotland could relax.

SCORERS: Scotland: Try: Cronin. Conversion: Hastings. Penalty goals: Hastings (6). Canada: Penalty goals: Rees (2).
SCOTLAND: G. Hastings (Widnes), captain; G. John (Motherwell); G. Townsend (Glas); I. Jardine (Strathclyde); R. Logan (Glasgow Celtic); G. Chalmers (Motherwell); S. Redburn (Motherwell); D. Morgan (Bath); K. Mather (Motherwell); P. Mather (Boroughmuir); R. Whitworth (West Herts); D. Grant (Boroughmuir); S. Campbell (Cardiff RFC); I. Morgan (London Scottish); E. Parnham (Bath).
CANADA: G. Stewart (USC Old Boys); W. Sharkey (USC); G. Stewart (Western Province and Europe); S. Gray (Ox); S. Toomey (Motherwell); G. Rees (Oxford University); J. Stewart (Leicester); J. Grant (USC Old Boys); E. Evans (USC); M. Campbell (Leicester); S. D. Jackson (USC Old Boys); I. Gordon (James Bay); M. James (Durban); G. Whitley (Glasgow); G. Macdonald; E. Brannan (Leicester); M. Macdonald (USC Old Boys).
Referee: G. Thomas (Wales).

Cole: missed early chance

"He had a good chance and when you miss that sort of chance in your debut in a big match it is

With big defenders dominating, Shearer had a quiet game until his contribution to Blackburn's disputed strike in the last minute; apart from getting booked, Sutton was even more anonymous as Black-

Statistics show that Ferguson's analysis was right. Suggestions that he gives the ball away a lot, which had been made by Malcolm

The most telling observation was that United's attempts to free him in the penalty area received no reward as Hendry closed the gaps and United tried to force things hitting the ball earlier and longer to exploit his speed. Yet his first chance came from just such an

That goal might have arrived as at last spaces opened up in the Blackburn defence after Cantona's goal. But one attempt was blocked after Kanchelskis found him, and two others went wide or over the bar as first McClair, and then Kanchelskis again, provided openings.

Ferguson, not surprisingly, disagreed. "Shearer pushed Keané, which is a foul because the forward seeks to gain an advantage. How could it have been a goal?" he asked.

BY ALYSON RUDD

Oldham have been playing attractive, passing football under Graeme Sharp, their player-manager, and looked on course to extend a recent run which had seen them lose

OLDHAM ATHLETIC (4-4-2): P Gerard — C Makin, R Graham, S Redmond, N Ponton — G Harte, I Snodin, L Richardson (sub: R Holden, 80), M Brennan — A Ritchie, N Banger.
Referee: F Parker

BY IVO TENNANT

Simpson's record would suggest that he has always hit his goals with such vehemence. Yet his has been a decidedly poor season: two goals, just one of them in the *Endsleigh Insurance League*. and, hitherto, nothing since November. Man-of-the-match awards will never be easier to give than this one.

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"The objective was to promote fair play and I feel we're achieving that. Perhaps there is still a bit of individuality among referees, but I think people appreciate that we are becoming far more consistent in our punishment by and large. The game has changed for the better and we're getting better matches, more goals and more entertainment. I now enjoy turning on my television to watch a football match."

Stallard, of Derby, plays close attention to the threatening run of Radosavljevic at the Baseball Ground

BY IVO TENNANT

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By RUSSELL KEMPSON

"It was nice for Craig, but obviously I'm disappointed for us," Burley Sr. said. "Three points would have been very important." Burley Jr. remained unabashed. "It doesn't really matter who I score against as long as it's good for the team," he said.

In the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, Bolton Wanderers maintained their steady progress to draw level with Wolverhampton Wanderers in second place, only two points behind Middlesbrough, the leaders. Burnden Park is alive at the prospect of Bolton's forthcoming Coca-Cola Cup semi-final with Swindon Town, but Bruce Rioch's players kept their minds on the bread and butter rather than the jam to crush Charlton Athletic 5-1.

Middlesbrough's dip in form continued — they needed a late equaliser from Mustoe to draw with Grimsby Town at Ayresome Park — while Carlisle United, runaway leaders of the third division, were also held 1-1. Walling's goal after 68 minutes gave them a share of the spoils away to Rochdale.

BY WALTER GAMMIE

Victory in the FA Umbro Trophy first-round tie completed Yeovil's joy. Paul Wilson, a tireless mudlark in attack, and Tiv Lowe, the former assistant manager, have now won both matches since being given temporary

The football was splash-splash, slither stuff that brought "oohs" and "aahs" from the 1,331 crowd as the ball stuck in the mud and players' feet refused to obey instructions. A penalty by Paul Clark, after Vosper had spotted shoving at a corner, gave the Beazer Hornets League side the lead. Yeovil's woes increased when Chris White was carried off with a damaged ankle ligaments.

YEOVIL TOWN (4-4-2): P. Mason — D. Morris, N. Cordice, C. White (sub: I. Benbow 44), P. Fenn — P. Conning, A. Wallace, R. Evans, M. Coates — P. Wilson, M. Spencer. Referee: P. Vosper.

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Clark refuses to duck as Villa head towards safety



Saunders: headed winner

Nottingham Forest 1
Aston Villa 2

By KEITH PIKE

NOTTINGHAM is a peaceful place these days. Less volatile and, most would argue, less interesting. But less significant? Hardly, even if the processes of revolution and evolution at the City Ground have been achieved so painlessly. There are no bloodstained carpets at the redevelopment, almost palatial home of one of England's more attractive teams.

Was it really 21 months ago that Brian Clough, all hugs, tears and bouquets, waved farewell to Forest and football? It seems like yesterday. That

he would overstay his welcome by one season had been predicted and, with relegation, came confirmation. Mortal once more, for his final walk across the Trent the self-proclaimed Old Big Ed had to use the bridge. Exit one legend, enter another.

Frank Clark would no sooner cuff a couple of pitch-invading supporters than jump under a bus. Whereas Clough was the headline writer's dream, Clark, as he did on Saturday after Forest's defeat by Aston Villa in the FA Carling Premiership, just gives it to you straight.

"We were second best to the ball too often in the first half and, for a team playing at home, we didn't create enough," Clark said. Nor was

he impressed with the Villa winner, headed down and over Crossley by Saunders from Staunton's cross. "We dealt with most of Villa's attacks well, but if you defend a cross like that, you have got problems," he said.

No thrills, no fuss, no excuses: a game ruled by passion on both sides of the perimeter fence analysed in a dispassionate, detached manner. But the Forest faithful will happily tolerate Clark's understatement. If his part in the club's glorious past was not enough, promotion at the first attempt last season and fifth place this, with an eye on a return to European competition, was sufficient to guarantee their affections. There was not a murmur of protest when,

on Friday, Forest handed Clarke a 3½-year extension to his contract. They would probably forgive him anything — except the sale of Collymore, the striker for whom several clubs would clear half of Forest's reputed £12 million debt.

On Saturday, Collymore looked worth nearer £5 than £6 million, his pace and power almost completely negated by a masterclass performance from Paul McGrath, who reduced Forest's most potent weapon to a frustrated, forlorn figure, brooding on the periphery of the match.

Such was McGrath's dominance that Collymore must have half expected the Irishman to find a way of denying him when he ran up to convert

Forest's 54th-minute penalty, awarded — contentiously — for Ehio's apparent foul from behind on Roy. If Keith Cooper, the referee, perceived Ehio's challenge as a foul, he should, undoubtedly, have sent the defender off.

Villa looked dumbstruck. From the first minute, they had been the more confident, assertive side, outpacing one of the best passing teams in the Premiership, taking the lead through Fashanu's near-post conversion of another cross by Staunton, and having hit the post through Saunders' exquisite lob seconds before Collymore's fortuitous equaliser. Saunders, however, was to ensure that the better team won.

So, Brian Little's move from

Filbert Street to Villa Park may yet prove to be worth the damage it caused to the reputations of both manager and club. In Ron Atkinson's charge, Villa took one point. In ten under Little, they have taken 15 and lost only once, and have climbed to the dizzy heights of fourteenth place. "One bad result could see us sucked back into trouble, so we cannot relax," Little said. Many more performances like this, though, and Villa will surely be safe.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, S. Crossley, C. Tier, A. Heston — S. Crossley, D. Lytle, L. Brown, L. Wain — B. Roy, S. Collymore. ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Staunton — S. Crossley, P. McGrath, S. Taylor, D. Taylor, R. Houghton, S. Taylor, D. Taylor, R. Houghton, S. Taylor — D. Taylor, R. Houghton, S. Taylor. Referee: K. Cooper (Pontypridd).

Ferguson offers Everton value for money

Everton 3
Crystal Palace 1

By PETER BALL

GOODISON Park survived its battering from the storms on Saturday and Everton took full advantage, claiming the victory that moved them out of the bottom four of the FA Carling Premiership for the first time since August. In appalling conditions, they showed more stomach for the fight, Crystal Palace looking as if they would rather have been elsewhere — and who could blame them?

The game turned on the two centre forwards. From the moment Alan Smith, the Palace manager, woke to read in a newspaper that Chris Armstrong, his sought-after centre forward, reportedly wanted to join Newcastle United, it was not Palace's — and certainly not Armstrong's — day.

"We gave a goal away in the third minute, which we haven't done all season, the less said about the second the better and the ball came off an allegedly £6 million centre forward to a £4 million centre forward, allegedly, for the third goal," Smith said bitterly.

While Armstrong was having an unhappy day, Duncan Ferguson looked, by comparison, a snip at a mere £4 million. The size of the fee, indeed his availability for Everton, owes more to the baggage he brought with him from Rangers than to his ability on the field.

The court case that he faces in Glasgow has been delayed until May, but he will miss the next three games in any case because of suspension after his sending off at Highbury last week. He might have suffered for his reputation on that occasion, but there is a slightly pleading note to the constant assurances from Joe Royle that "he's no trouble, really," and from the players assuring you that "he's a nice guy".

"He's a nutter," Paul Rideout said. Rideout was referring, specifically, to his striking partner's warm-up

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routine. On Saturday, while the rest of the team went out on to the pitch to go through their calisthenics, Ferguson stayed in the dressing-room to what Rideout described as "young man's music" from a ghetto blaster. Given the foul weather, which one was the "nutter" may be debated.

Rideout confirmed, too, that there is more to Ferguson. "He is good for the dressing-room," he said. "He does what he wants, but sometimes he can be a little bit complex. He wants to keep himself to himself and be a bit quiet." On the field, too, all is not as it appears. In spite of his reputation, Ferguson is elegant rather than the big, rough-edged centre forward of popular culture. He is tall, with a long body, a loping, almost languid run and a good touch. Nor is he the all-action attack-leader in the Alan Shearer mould. His contribution to Everton's run of five wins and three draws in their first Premiership games under Royle is unarguable. He has scored six goals in those games and is central to the team's rather basic strategy for survival.

It is hard to remember a better player in the air. At 6ft 4in, he would be a handful anyway, but he jumps like a basketball player and has the ability of Tommy Lawton, his famous predecessor, to seemingly hang in the air. With Hinchcliffe to supply a stream of accurate crosses, he is a menace to any defence.

It took Nigel Martyn only three minutes to discover that as Horne sent Hinchcliffe to the byline to cross and Ferguson climbed above his marker at the far post and sent a header back across the goal-keeper and in off the post. To the goalkeeper's discomfort, Rideout, whose own contribution to Everton's run has been impressive, claimed the second when he charged down the keeper's clearance and put the ball into the empty net.

Briefly, Palace came back into it with Coleman's goal, but Ferguson had the last word as he pounced on Armstrong's error.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N. Southall — M. Jackson, D. Watson, D. Unsworth, D. Burton — J. Elliott, P. Parfitt, S. Horne, A. Hinchcliffe — P. Rideout, D. Ferguson. CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N. Martyn — G. Southam, D. Picher, R. Newman, J. Nelson — C. Armstrong, I. Downe (sub: J. Nelson, 60min). Referee: P. Jones.

Ponderous Newcastle pose empty threat



David Miller on a goalless draw against Sheffield Wednesday that added to Kevin Keegan's problems

THE sooner Kevin Keegan spends the Cole fortune that is burning a hole in his pocket, the better for Newcastle United. On their form at Hillsborough, almost as chilling as the weather on Saturday, Newcastle have little more chance of catching Blackburn Rovers than Leicester City have. Sheffield Wednesday shared equally in a disappointing FA Carling Premiership match.

It surprised nobody that Keegan and Trevor Francis, the respective managers, were low-key in their assessment of a game that, seemingly so attractive beforehand, fell so short of expectations. Continuation of such form, never mind the FA Cup victory over Blackburn last week, will become a serious embarrassment for Keegan. Newcastle have one victory in their last 11 league matches.

Playing five in midfield, including the returning but out-of-touch Beardsley, Newcastle made few openings for Kitson, and, when they did, Kitson looked unlikely to accept. Temperamentally and tactically, he had a lonely afternoon. The urgency for Keegan to find a goalscorer, in order to keep pace with the supporters, sharpens by the day.

Indeed, with Keegan heading for the Continent in search

of Aladdin's lamp, Newcastle's frustration against Wednesday was total. Had it not been for a combination of the consuming energy of Venison, who held together not only the midfield but often the defence, and some exceptional saves by Smeek, Newcastle would have gone under and been left even further adrift of the leaders. At this rate, not even a UEFA Cup place is a certainty.

Beardsley, wandering here and there, initially on the left flank in a 4-5-1 formation, looked like a dog owner going for a walk holding a lead but with no dog. Fox, on the right wing, constantly had the beating of Nolan — and, when switching to the left in the second half, of Petrescu — but too often ended by defeating his own colleagues with inaccurate, aimless passes or crosses.

The ray of hope came when Gillespie, the loose change from the Cole transfer, replaced an out-of-sorts Lee for the second half. Gillespie wove some clever runs in the space vacated by Fox, and might have snatched a winner 11 minutes from time with a crisp, low shot deflected by Walker at Woods. Returning to the first team after 15 months, Woods was sound enough.

If this were an end-of-term report, it would be as difficult



Peacock, left, of Newcastle, and Ingeeson take off in a match that conspicuously failed to do likewise. Photograph: Marc Aspland

to pen encouraging words for Wednesday, who had tactical shape but insufficient substance. Atherton made a comprehensive job of stitching up Kitson, while Walker, who has lost some of what pace he once had with Nottingham Forest and England, handled the rest of Newcastle's intermittent threats from Clark or Lee. But what did Wednesday do with the ball once they had it?

Not a lot. Their strike force of Whittingham and Watson — the latter replaced on the hour by Bright — would hardly have scared your gran-

ny after dark. When gift-horses occasionally happened to stroll by, Whittingham was out to get his head caught in the harness.

Waddle has always had a stoop, but is now looking more 44 than 34. He hit some characteristic, occasionally dangerous swerving corners, but too often seemed as if he was on the training ground, often hanging his head in dismay most unprofessionally for someone being paid thousands a week.

Francis was reduced to expressing concern about the

challenge from below rather than above, which illustrates the alarm that constantly clutches at managers' coat tails. Wednesday, for heaven's sake, are ninth in the table.

The first quarter of an hour was Wednesday's, and at this stage Sheridan and Bart-Williams were doing enough to suggest they might control the midfield and thereby the match. Yet the authority up front was missing.

On the half-hour, Fox, cutting inside, rolled the ball square into the path of Lee, who, with the whole goal at

which to aim, struck his shot straight at Woods. Now came Whittingham's best moment. Set free by Sheridan and Waddle on the right, he saw that Smeek was too far off his line, studiously clipped the ball, and saw it drop just behind the bar.

Five minutes into the second half, Clark and Fox combined well for Clark to force Woods to save at full stretch, but at the other end Peacock only just managed to scramble the ball for a corner off Bright's feet. Waddle's most coherent contribution came with an acute

header from close in that Smeek glanced over the bar, and, with a quarter of an hour remaining, the Newcastle goalkeeper gave the match its only highlight: consecutive saves from Ingeeson, Bright and Whittingham that persuaded many Wednesday followers it was time to go home.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): C. Woods — D. Petrescu, P. Atherton, D. Walker, I. Nolan — C. Waddle, J. Sheridan, C. Bart-Williams, K. Ingeeson — G. Whittingham, G. Watson (sub: M. Bright, 50min). NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-5-1): P. Smeek — M. Houghton, D. Peacock, S. Houghton, J. Beardsley — R. Fox, R. Lee (sub: K. Gillespie, 45), B. Venison, L. Clark, P. Beardsley — P. Kitson. Referee: R. Gillford.

Graham shows strain under pressure

Coventry City 0
Arsenal 1

By DAVID POWELL

COVENTRY 1, Arsenal 0. The score in protest banners. "Neal Out" was the plain-spoken message raised after Coventry City's ninth FA Carling Premiership match without a win. Phil Neal, the Coventry City manager, responded by saying that the reaction was the supporters' prerogative. Some of the other things he said were baffling.

Through his eyes, "the boys have played magnificently, the application was as good as it has been" and he had "nothing but praise for them". Oh yes, and he was proud of them, too. Proud of a team that troubled the opposing goalkeeper only four times in 90 minutes. Proud of a team that was as dull as George Gra-

ham's overcoat. As dull, in fact, as Arsenal. Both teams were missing first-choice players and the pitch was greasy, but neither excused the lack of ideas and adventure.

At 2.30pm, Dire Straits could be heard on the public address system and, for the remainder of the afternoon, two clubs in dire straits hit all the wrong notes — except for one explosive moment, 13 minutes from time, when John Hartson was counted in by Ally Pickering, the Coventry right back. Pickering directed the ball into Hartson's path and, with the help of a deflection, Hartson, 19, fired his first goal for Arsenal since his £2.5 million move from Luton Town. Money For Nothing, Dire Straits had been singing. Not the money spent on Hartson, though.

A season that had started so promisingly, with a 3-0 win over Manchester City, has

turned sour for Arsenal. However, the absence of banners calling for Graham's dismissal, at a time when he is under investigation for his transfer dealings and has just seen his team eliminated from the two main English cups, is testimony to his achievements over the years. Only the Cup Winners' Cup remains to fight for, unless Arsenal are drawn into the relegation battle, which seems unlikely after the result on Saturday.

This was an important victory for Arsenal, their first of the year, because it put them six points ahead of Coventry, who are now fourth from bottom and in the relegation zone. How quickly fortunes change, because Coventry entered December with thoughts on qualifying for Europe.

How quickly, indeed. Was the George Graham we saw on Saturday the one who had been happy to engage in jokes

with the media after that victory over Manchester City? "It looked as though you were playing with four forwards," George, was the suggestion in August and Graham said he would try to ensure it did not happen again. No jokes on Saturday.

A radio interviewer asked for "just a minute". Silence as Graham turned his back and walked up the stairs towards the press room exit. "Can you do the Mondays?" Graham was asked, the usual request from tabloid reporters wanting something fresh for the Monday papers. "No," was Graham's response. Nor did he appear on *Match of the Day*, though Neal did. Hartson and Dixon were put in instead.

Hartson said his goal had been helped by "a bit of bad defending" and Dixon was adamant, as Graham had been, that there had been no heated exchanges in the dressing room between players and manager after the FA Cup defeat by Millwall in midweek. Graham has since been urged by the Arsenal board to spend money strengthening the side. The Coventry XI from Saturday need not apply.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Gray — A. Pickering, P. Brown, D. Brown, P. Williams — M. Wright, J. Hartson (sub: C. Jones, 64min), C. Cook, L. Jendryaszek — A. Wegerle, D. Dixon. ARSENAL (4-3-3): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, A. Linighan, S. Bould, M. Keown — D. Hughton, R. Perrett, S. S. Schwartz, S. Mowbray, K. Campbell, I. Wright (sub: C. Keworth, 64), J. Hartson. Referee: J. Worral.

Partick and Falkirk slide back towards no man's land

IN the premier division, doom comes early. It is still only January, but, on Saturday, Partick Thistle found themselves even more isolated at the foot of the table. Although luck and tenacity allowed them to hold on to a 0-0 draw with Celtic at Firhill, results elsewhere were unfavourable. Dundee turned last season into one protracted fall towards relegation; now Thistle seem gripped by that same bleak gravity.

Even if they should gouge a handhold and avoid the drop, one of the other disadvantaged clubs must be relegated instead. Falkirk, for instance, have been plummeting for the past few weeks. This may not seem like much of a sob

story — after all, sport needs a few wretches for purposes of contrast. They make the winners look good.

Perhaps Thistle, Falkirk or some other victim should take the punishment without snivelling, although that bracing outlook has its blind spot. In Scottish football, it tends to be the same few clubs who repeatedly encounter adversity. These sides are involved in something more serious than a crisis. They have become part of a syndrome.

A familiar life-cycle has developed for those with plenty of ambition and a lack of money. Typically, the team wins promotion and then, with nostrils flaring and boots flying, survives for a year in the premier division.

It is the second season, when the frenzied desire for survival can no longer be whipped up, which brings relegation.

Since 1980, Airdrie, Clydebank, Dundee, Falkirk and Motherwell have all undergone that experience. A few clubs risk forming a little group who spend their days oscillating between the premier and first division. They do not wholly belong in either.

As Jim Duffy, the manager of Dundee, said: "It is expectations which get managers the sack." No chairman can inspire supporters by promising them year after year of scavenging for survival. Football depends on the myth of progress. Once a team has come through one season in

the premier division, it becomes fashionable to talk of aspiring to a European place.

Duffy knows that such chatter is insane. The lofty target, after all, is set for the same group of players who only inched clear of relegation months before.

The premier division, with only ten members, contains no place of refuge for newcomers. The Old Firm, Heart of Midlothian, Hibernian, Aberdeen, Dundee United and, it would appear, Motherwell, are certain of safety. At the weekend, United's starting 6-1 victory over Motherwell, in which they were greatly abetted by Sergio, their new Brazilian signing, stripped the recent fatalism from Tannadice, but Ivan Golac's side is probably not in real danger. As always, it will be the interlopers who are left to wrestle with relegation.

That environment guarantees palpitations and does not encourage sophistication. Dundee and the others faced by the conundrum ar-

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

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Serenity greets the ultimate athlete reborn



Simon Barnes finds
Martina Navratilova
revelling in retirement,
the contented mistress
of her own destiny

Something has happened to Martina's face. She is a bit like the widow in Oscar Wilde whose hair turned quite gold from grief. She has retired from tennis and her face is years younger. A capsule of care has fallen from her.

Scene — no, not a word you associate with Martina Navratilova. Not a word you associate with many athletes, who devote themselves to the life of strife and whose faces in competition fill and fill again with anguish, rage, delight.

Navratilova rode the switchback of her own emotions for year after year, punching the air with big winners, laughing at incongruities that broke the flow, screaming at the heavens when her skills failed her. Now it is all over, and that utterly unMartina-esque quality of serenity is suddenly apparent.

"My friends said they found the difference in my face within days of retiring," she said. "After my last match, they said they could see my face relaxing." Most top athletes — great recluses with dreadlocks, Navratilova, never short of interests, concerns and causes beyond her sport, feels a heady gust of freedom. Free to fix her own schedule. Free to do dangerous things like snowboarding and horse-riding. Free to learn Spanish, to work for causes she believes in. She is her own mistress, and just thinking about it is intoxicating.

You cannot help but feel she deserves it. There is a very strong case for claiming her as the ultimate athlete of the past 20 years. Nine Wimbledon singles titles, six of them in a row; 167 singles titles in total, more than 20 years of striving. She brought a singularity to sport not seen in any other competitor. She is neither fully European nor fully American, but somehow combines the frankness of one culture, the depth of reference of another. It seems to be her way: to take two obvious contradictions and to make them complement each other. In many ways, she embodies the best of two worlds, old and new.

In the same way, embodying what was both a contra-



Navratilova relaxes as she faces up to life after tennis. "My friends said they found the difference in my face within days," she says. Photograph: Chris Harris

dition or a strange completeness, she seemed in competition neither male nor female, but both discipline, ambition, strength, fragility, vulnerability. Nobody was stronger-willed, nobody more nervous on the big points. In the stress of big-time play, she was a bewildering combination of granite and marshmallow.

It was she, more than any other athlete, who rewrote the possibilities for women. She went in for hours of self-punishment in the gym at a time when jogging was strictly for male bodybuilders. She presented herself to the world in a lean, honed body, shorn of visible body-fat, hard muscles speaking of a ruthlessness towards herself — something she was never quite able to turn to uncompromising ruthlessness towards her opponent.

Even in retirement, she continues to work out in the gym, five days a week, with sessions up to two hours. "I've been doing it for so long, if I don't work out for a week I

don't feel well," she said. No pain, no serenity, perhaps.

Navratilova has always been more than a sporting phenomenon. She has always lived in the real world. She was the first truly uncompromising female athlete, in terms of fitness, longevity, ambition; she was perhaps the last totally successful professional athlete who has never known the hothouse upbringing, the life of undiluted obsession.

In a sense, she is, or was, the last real person in tennis, perhaps in all big-time sports. She has always had a heart, a most capacious organ, and her mind has been directed her, and she is relishing the thought of more vigorous campaigning as a new life spreads out before her.

She surfs into retirement at 38 on a tide of public goodwill,

cheered to the echo at Wimbledon. You would not have thought that she was the sort to have them cheering in London SW19: the two suburbs are not the easiest places for a stand-up-and-be-counted homosexual.

Navratilova was hated for a while, her opponents cheered, no matter who they were. But it is Wimbledon's way to love

said. "You set up the point just right, you have the open-court volley you would make with your eyes closed ten years ago, and I'm concentrating like hell, and I still miss it. And it's like, God damn it, because you are not exactly perfect, and when you get older you have to be really perfect."

The more years she played, the more she became separate

of people capable of saying "my forehead was going really good", and another with a view — a sane, human and balanced one — on any topic you cared to throw at her.

When the Magic Johnson AIDS story was thrown at her in one post-match conference, she responded by asking what heroic qualities the assembled journalists would find in a woman who, like Johnson, boasted of a thousand sexual partners. A powerful service from the press, but the return left them gaping.

Always a person of the real world, even as a child. She spoke of a promising nine-year-old boy forbidden to play any sport but tennis. Of Venus Williams, the latest American teen phenomenon, educated by her parents, never going to school. "I got my knuckles playing soccer with the boys," she said. "I swam in the river, I chased on the ice when it froze. I always read the newspapers, wanted to know what was going on."

The world of hothouse tennis kids appeals her: the robotic fulfilment of the dreams and ambitions of parents and coaches. "I think it would be fun one day to coach someone who really loves the game," she said, "who plays it for all the right reasons. Who runs to pick up tennis balls because she can't wait to hit the next one." As, no doubt, she once did herself.

She looks for an unfettered joy: a relish of the strife, even of the anguish. A joy that comes from love of the sport, rather than someone else's ambition. Tennis as the central part of a full life as a sport loved this side of obsession.

This is one more contradiction, or if you prefer, one more way in which Navratilova seeks the best of two worlds: of professionalism of approach, preparation, pride, of amateurism in love, amateur meaning nothing less than lover. Not contradictions: complementers.

Competitor, champion, and lots of other things too. She did not spare herself, you see.

'She rode the switchback of her emotions for years. Now she feels a heady gust of freedom'

all champions, no matter how uncompromising their lives, when their frailties show. The more the marshmallow Navratilova revealed, the more the public loved her. Wimbledon and Martina: a love affair for the richer for its years of turbulence. And the more the years passed, the more she was loved.

"Getting old sucks," she

from the rest of female tennis players. Women's tennis became a world of teen sensations who have never known anything other than whacking a ball across the court, and Martina: a stray from the real world and, incidentally, a better tennis player than them all.

A host of coaches' creations: one self-made person. A host

Never mind the ambience, just look at the scoreboard

The complaints common to many of Britain's more important sporting events concern accessibility and comfort. Tickets are highly priced and highly prized venues are poorly sited and hopelessly outdated, the crush is unbearable, the food inedible. The answer, where finance permits, is to build a stadium to suit an event, just as Australia has done for its Open tennis tournament.

The Flinders Park tennis centre opened in 1988 and has been seamlessly accepted by all. The players proclaim their liking for its court surface, proximity to the city and easy atmosphere. They approve of its sense of space, one of many reasons why it is also outstandingly user-friendly to the paying spectator.

What Wimbledon has, of course, which Flinders Park never will, is the air of tradition and the ambience of a garden party. But what it also has is queues, claustrophobia and catering that may pamper the privileged but which mocks the common punter. Wimbledon has some grand plans, but Australia is already showing the way.

The nearest approach to Flinders Park is along the footbridge which passes the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). The first programme seller is there, doing brisk trade with the glossy, 200-page product and pocketing endless tips by dint of the curious nine-dollar (£4.50) cover price. He is out of coins, you are in a good mood: another dollar goes into his pocket.

There is a queue at the gate, though it is unimpressive by Wimbledon standards. Most



Alan Lee appreciates user-friendly facilities at Flinders Park, home of the Australian Open championships

people have bought tickets in advance by the convenient method, used by all Australian sport, of city agencies. It is easy and anti-elitist. It is also inexpensive. There are day and night sessions daily and my centre-court ticket for the day's full play on Thursday cost Aus\$24 (£12). Prices rise through the fortnight, however, and the finals next Sunday would cost you Aus\$70.

What this guarantees is a comfortable, reserved seat with an unrestricted view. The centre court, which doubles as a concert hall, holds 15,000 people. There are 6,000 seats on No.1 court and 3,000 on court two. By next year, there will be two additional show courts. First, though, I head out to court six and a bad experience.

Jeremy Bates is playing Patrick McEnroe and the

small stands are inadequate for the demand. I am shown to a spare seat at the far end of the front row. The seat is filthy and there is a huge puddle at my feet. As this corner, also serves as an unofficial entrance, those squeezing past cannot help but splash me. It is intensely hot and I am perched on the edge of the chair with my feet in the air. Bates's performance notwithstanding, it is soon time to move on.

The wide, bright, carpeted and air-conditioned concourse which circles the main court is blissfully cool. There are machines for hire at Aus\$2 (£1) a time and binoculars cost Aus\$7. The cushion is a good idea if your seat is in the sun, the binoculars if you are above the mid-point of the stands.

First, however, a coffee. Real coffee, from an espresso mach-

ine, not the vile powdered stuff still found at many British venues and, interestingly, also at the MCG. An attractive, varied and well-stocked line of food counters shares the perimeter with merchandise stalls and, for the mandatory, camera-slung Japanese, one-hour film development booths.

I watch Patrick Rafter win, then throw his sweat bands to swooning girls. The computerised scoreboard is a marvel, for if Rafter has won a point at the net it tells me how many times he has done this in the match; similarly, if he misses a backhand or double-faults, etc. It stops only just short of revealing how many times he has scratched his nose. Between games, it also updates the crowd with scores from other the courts. This is all to the good because the centre-court umpire seems to have laryngitis and can barely be heard.

As with all things Australian, the Open is swamped by commercialism. Would you believe that there is an official wine for the tennis? And an official newspaper? Happily, there are also bookmakers on hand and I retire to lunch pondering the value of Todd Martin, at 5-4, to win in straight sets.

After a fresh lasagne and crisp salad, chosen just ahead of beef in blackbean sauce from the Asian counter, I decide against it. Naturally, Martin wins in three. I have an ice-cream on my way out and the girl seller, like all the Flinders staff, smiles broadly. It is that kind of feel-good event. It makes you want to go back for more, rather than sighing with relief that the ordeal is over.

WHAT IT COSTS	
Centre court	£12.00
Outer court	£8.00
Day session	£4.50
Night session	£6.00
Binoculars	£7.00
Food & drink	£2.00
Movie & drink	£2.50
Movie & drink & coffee	£3.00
Movie & drink & coffee & beer	£3.50
Movie & drink & coffee & beer & wine	£4.00
Movie & drink & coffee & beer & wine & champagne	£4.50
Movie & drink & coffee & beer & wine & champagne & caviar	£5.00
Movie & drink & coffee & beer & wine & champagne & caviar & truffle	£5.50
Movie & drink & coffee & beer & wine & champagne & caviar & truffle & lobster	£6.00
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Two silvers as British gliders join high-fliers

By Maxwell Fendit

TWO silver medals were won and several near medal misses recorded by British pilots at the world gliding championships in Omarama, New Zealand.

Brian Spreckley, 46, a former class champion, and Justin Wills, 48, took second places in the Standard and 15 metre classes respectively. Marilyn Wells, 45, latterly on the leader board, missed standing beside Spreckley on the dais, with bronze eluding him by just 14 points.

Andy Davis, 38, the previous Standard class world champion, made one slip which cost him the lead, 400 points, and meant he had to settle for sixth place. Markku Kuitinen, of Finland, and Eric Napoleon, of France, stayed just ahead of Spreckley and Wills to take the gold medals.

The relative British overall successes in the Standard class were achieved despite the lack of "professional" facilities or time to hone them before just a few days local practice together upon arrival in South Island.

The British can now rate their team success and development alongside that of their international rivals. All the British competitors are now more experienced to cope with the next global contest, in St Auban, southern France in 1997.

A World Cup was introduced based on team-member averages throughout. The French winners totalled 8,459 points to Finland's 8,358 with the British fifth, of 7,987.

THE TIMES

Win the new United strip

The Times has teamed up with leading football strip suppliers Umbro and Premier champions Manchester United to offer you the chance to win the new Manchester United third strip.

The names of Duncan Edwards, Eric Cantona, Paddy Crerand and Brian Kidd and many other Manchester United greats past and present are embossed in a new football shirt worn for the first time this season on December 31.

The new blue and white jersey is in its own way a tribute to the players who have made Manchester United great and has been a hit with fans everywhere.

For your chance to win one of 30 of these new strips simply telephone your answers to the questions below before midnight on Wednesday January 25 on 0839 444563 or send them on a postcard to arrive before Monday January 30 to: The Times/Manchester United football Strip Competition, 16, Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. The winners will be the first 30 correct answers selected at random from all entries received after the telephone and postal closing dates.

Questions: What colour strip did Manchester United wear in the 1968 European Cup Final? Who did Manchester United play when they wore the new blue and white strip for the first time this season? What is the connection between Manchester United and its green and white strip?

Calls cost 39p a minute cheap rate and 49p a minute at all other times.



Manchester United Merchandising

If God had meant us to fly, he would have given us wings. Luckily, man has, Christian Dymond reports

Suspended animation

Even if Gabi White had harboured any doubts about paragliding, the end of the first day at school was enough to dispel them. "It was such good weather and we progressed so quickly that by early evening we were paragliding off a 500 ft hill and landing at the bottom," she said. "It was excellent, so quiet up in the air with all the space around me that I felt just like a bird."

The fitness instructor, 25, took up paragliding eight months ago with her husband, John, because they wanted to do a sport together. They were two out of 1,120 people who booked lessons last year at Sky Systems, one of the biggest such schools in the country.

"We were there a couple of times first just to watch other people paraglide and to talk to the instructors," White said. "It looked fun, and that was part of the appeal, as well as the fact that it's easy to pack up the equipment in a rucksack."

So far, the couple have had eight day-long lessons and are very close to getting their club pilot licence, the second of four paragliding licences you can hold and one that permits you to fly unsupervised.

"One of the days I thought I couldn't get down. I kept going higher and higher in the air," she continued. "But the instructors had warned us about this so I did lots of S-turns [pulling alternately on the left and right steering handles] to lose height. I got a bit frightened, but it hasn't put me off."

Generally, paragliders make use of two types of lift: thermal lift, caused by hot air rising, and dynamic lift, caused by air being deflected upwards from a hill, mountain, sand dune or man-made object.

Competitions involve various tasks, sometimes racing to a goal many miles away, at other times racing round a set route, being sure to photograph on the way what are called "turn points", to prove you have overflown them.

Gabi, who has taken a few gliding lessons, and John, who has done both gliding and parachuting, do a round trip of about 10 miles from their Kent home to Sky Systems. She believes you need commitment if you have to travel that sort of distance and then wait around if the weather is not right. "It's very exciting, though," she said. "I'm looking forward to doing some cross-country flights and going on paragliding holidays."

For five or six months of the

SPORT FOR ALL



What goes up, stays up

year, Patrick Holmes has the world at his feet. For the British paragliding champion, that is the amount of time he spends globe-trotting and competing every year. The sport has taken him to Japan, Mexico, Nepal, India, Brazil, the United States, South Korea (where his sponsor, Edel, is based), and many countries in Europe, although compared to a number of other sporting champions and considering the distances involved, his is a life on a relatively low budget.

Sometimes I get expenses and prize money, but I reckon I spend £4,000 to £5,000 myself a year as well," Holmes said. "One of the reasons I took up the sport was to travel, so wherever I go I usually do a bit of sightseeing, using local transport and staying in cheap hotels."

Holmes works in Dent, Cumbria, at a firm called Lyon Equipment, a supplier of caving, climbing and paragliding gear. Four years ago, he gave up a job as a mineral surveyor to spend more time on paragliding, a sport he was

introduced to three years before that in the French Alps by his brother, Stuart.

Another brother, Philip, was a paraglider too, but in September 1993, at the age of 25, he was killed while paragliding in America. Weather conditions changed quickly and he was blown into a hill.

His death led Holmes to give up the sport for a while, but he was back competing in the World Cup in Brazil early last year. At the initial stage of the competition, he was lying second (placements for the individual competitors are worked out over a number of events dotted around the world during the year), and eventually came 31st. In 1993, he had finished tenth.

"After Philip's death I was a lot more cautious and was ready to give up competition completely," Holmes said. "I had broken my pelvis some months before in France when I was dragged on to some rocks after landing with another competitor who had got caught up with me. But paragliding gives me such a buzz and it's something I've done well at, so it became difficult to stop."

As a teenager in the Lake District, Holmes, 31, was a keen windsurfer, walker and climber. Now, as paragliding champion, he is a household name, albeit in a fairly small number of households. Membership of the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHFA) is about 8,000. Just over half are paragliders.

Last year, the British championship was held over three legs, one in Wales, another in the Yorkshire Dales and the last in Spain, where the flying weather is better. Poor weather led to the cancellation of flying in the Dales.

"I've free-flown across country for nearly a hundred miles, and it's very exhilarating," Holmes said. "But in competitions there's an added sense of excitement. You can pick many different routes to get to a certain point and use your skill and judgment to get there faster than others. You're constantly changing tactics in the air, depending on the terrain, the weather and how high you are. You're also using other competitors as indicators of what's happening around you."

"Someone, for instance, might be climbing fast, so you know they're in an area of good lift."

From March 8 to 26, Holmes will be joining the



Sky Systems manager Gary Cook teaches Gabi White more of the ins and outs — and ups and downs — of paragliding

British team (to date, four men and a woman) at the world championships in Japan, a biennial team event. After that, he can concentrate on the British championships, which start in May, and the World Cup, which this year will take individual contestants to Italy, Switzerland, France, Spain and Austria.

Another year, another round of flying the world.

Treat a friend to a meal for 20p

There may be no such thing as a free lunch — but with *The Times* you can take a friend for a meal that will cost the same as a copy of Britain's best quality daily newspaper. *The Times* has got together with Transmedia, the international restaurant card, to offer one meal for 20p when two or more people dine, as an introduction to a scheme that could also save you 25 per cent every time you eat out.

Times readers who already hold a Visa, Delta or MasterCard can participate, and enjoy not only the 20p meal but also six months' free trial membership of Transmedia (normally £35 a year). A worldwide organisation, Transmedia pre-purchases food and wine credits at special prices from participating restaurants. When a meal is bought with the card, the savings are passed on to the member. If, for example, your total restaurant bill for



a meal for four is £100 (excluding VAT and tip), £25 will appear as a credit against that amount when you receive your card statement. It's like getting the fourth meal free.

Why not try the daily changing menu of international cuisine, at Chesham's on Pont Street, Sheraton Belgravia, 20 Chesham Place, SW1, with more than 450 participating UK restaurants offering every type of fare the choice is yours.

HOW TO APPLY

Today we print the last of six 20p dining tokens. Send any four of the six tokens which have appeared with the application form to the address below. In order to obtain your £20 meal for 20p you must have a Transmedia card. You are only eligible for a Transmedia card if you already hold a valid Visa, MasterCard or Delta card. The 20p meal must be taken before the end of February, 1995.

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● Readers wishing to take advantage of the 20p meal for 20p offer and six months' free Transmedia Card membership must include four of the six tokens that appear in *The Times* between January 17 and 23 with their application.

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● Participating readers who use their card for the first time before February 28 for a meal with two or more people will receive a further £10.00 — a full meal for 20p.

● Application forms with four differently numbered tokens attached should be sent to: *The Times*/Transmedia Promotion, 11 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LB. Applicants who wish to apply for the Transmedia Card without tokens can do so by ringing 0800 716591.

● Please allow seven days for receipt of your card.

RONALD FAUX

● The British Gliding Association, Kimberley House, Vaughan Way, Leicester LE1 4SE (01533 51051) provides a list of clubs offering instruction. Lasham Gliding Society, Lasham Airfield, Alton, Hants GU24 5SS (01256 381322)

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Out of its element on the ground, a glider awaits the moment when it will soar into the near-silent thermal world

Waste the ground faster than a Space Shuttle. A mile of steel cable, clipped to the glider's keel and wound by a distant winch, launches us into a climb steep. At 1,400 ft, this semicircle of extra-terrestrial takeoff ends abruptly. The cable releases and the mechanical bond is broken. We slip into the whispering, predatory world of the soaring glider, stalking the sky for rising air.

The pro is invisible, capricious and keeps the hunter constantly alert, scanning the sky for clues. In the rear seat, Clive Thomas, an instructor with Lasham Gliding Society, disarms a patch of decaying cumulus overhead as "past its sell-by date." We nose towards a cloud with a steel-grey base and assume a turn by slow explosions of thermal air.

The glider, a K13, accelerates and the whispering becomes a shuffling rush. Control is few and simple: a stick to determine pitch and tilt and pedals to swing the rudder. Co-ordination of hand, eye and foot to produce an elegantly balanced turn is the elusive goal. Success is indicated by a short length of low-tech string fluttering on the canopy from string vertical and the turn is properly balanced, rising askew and the glider's shimmering across the sky. Instruments indicate speed, height and the rate at

Gliding away from it all

which the glider is either climbing or descending. The largest cloud casts a grey shadow and the glider slows under it. We have dropped 200 ft from the launch, but we are upwind of the airfield and the K13 loses only one foot for every 28 feet of forward progress: a calculation of which to be mindful when there is no engine.

The glider vibrates slightly in a patch of rough air, outer marker of a thermal. Rising air lifts the left wingtip. "Dig into that," Thomas says and the glider's left wingtip dips into the invisible uprush, the horizon spinning madly with seven or eight knots of lift indicated. The base of the thermal is narrow and drifts with the speed and direction of the wind so the target is not only invisible, it moves.

Other gliders spot our success and join the thermal, lower down, spiralling upwards in the same direction. Other clues to rising air may be swallows feeding on a column of insects drawn into a strong thermal. Birds of prey are often reliable markers, although a buzzard or

golden eagle may follow a glider into a thermal, pilot and bird, eyeing one another as they climb. Patches of dark, heat-absorbent earth, stubble fields, south-facing slopes, the summit edge of a cloud bank: all may trigger a thermal.

Gliding is long-established and highly developed. It competes now with hang gliding and, more recently, paragliding. At Lasham, the country's largest gliding centre, courses costing between £260 and £330 a week or £110 for a weekend are run almost year-round with no more than four pupils per instructor. One-to-one training can be had for £50 a day plus the cost of the winch or aero-tow launch. This option overcomes the frequent criticism that training means hours on the ground for minutes in the air. Even so, gliding is a distinctly social sport with every pilot dependent on a ground crew of other pilots for every flight.

It is not unusual in good conditions for a mid-range glider to fly 200 miles or more, or soar above 20,000 ft. The fascination of gliding is that it obliges the pilot to understand

every nuance of the clouds and to squeeze every inch of lift from them.

Basic gliders, solid and purposeful-looking, may be bought for less than £3,000. Others are elegant structures with slender wings spanning 60ft or more that will glide 60 miles from 5,000ft without benefit of thermal. Some have pop-up engines, and these high-performance machines may cost £100,000 or more.

The thermal has lifted us to cloud base at 5,000 ft, and grey mist threatens to engulf the glider. There is enough rising air about to hold us aloft for hours, but others on the course must be growing impatient for their turn. The nose dits towards the airfield and we move in to land.

The glider picks up speed, giving more control, and we bank into final approach. Air brakes — wing slats that reduce the angle of glide — allow the pilot to touch down with great precision. The keel scrapes briefly across the ground, then there is silence.

School boxers back in the ring

By JOHN GOODBODY

BOXING has been introduced into the curriculum at a state school for the first time for at least 20 years.

However, although the Liverpool school is practising a non-contact form of the sport, the move has still been criticised by the British Medical Association (BMA) as "an unhealthy development".

A pilot scheme of the "Kid Gloves" project has begun at Croxteth Community School and is likely to spread to other schools in Liverpool, with indirect financial backing from the local council and the Government.

David Knox and Steve Stewart, PE teachers at Croxteth, are delighted with the success



of the teaching of boxing skills, such as the correct stance and guard, and the punching against pads.

The activity takes place twice a week during curriculum time and is taught by qualified coaches from outside the school.

Knox said: "Since we introduced the boxing at the start of this academic year, it has been most successful. We teach a variety of sports here and we hope to ensure that everyone leaves school wanting to take part in some sort of physical activity, from which they will benefit as adults."

"We aim to whet boys' appetites. If they are interested in the sport, we direct them to a suitable local club, where they can go outside curriculum time."

This term, 55 boys are practising boxing in three different classes, under an arrangement backed by the Government's Sportsmatch scheme, with two local sponsors, GTB Demolition Ltd and George Treble, and the Liverpool City Council.



Kevin Kennedy, left, and Chris O'Sullivan are taught non-contact boxing. Photograph: Howard Barlow

Paul King, the council's boxing development officer in a city where there are 30 amateur boxing clubs, said:

"The boys have been happy and the schools have been happy. We have even heard girls' voices saying that they should be given the opportunity to try the sport."

Last summer, Liverpool council held an extra-curricular "come-and-try-it" scheme, attracting 450 boys, 50 of whom are now competing and a further 50 are boxing for recreation.

The schools' syllabus starts with teaching boys the basics of the stance, guard and footwork. Next comes jabbing to the head and body, with the appropriate defence. Then the

use of the rear hand and defences against its use are taught.

The fourth stage is combination punching and the final section is flair and self-expression.

Details of the scheme were

"Since there is no contact and provided there are adequate safety precautions, this activity is seen as more acceptable. However, we do hope that the boys and their parents are sensibly counselled by the teacher about joining suitably

brought the withdrawal from the curriculum. Dr Jeffrey Cundy, the joint author of the BMA's last report on boxing, published in 1993, accepted that the activity in Liverpool was non-contact.

"However, we feel that children should still not be introduced to boxing because they will then be encouraged to take up an activity which is uniquely dangerous when actual contact takes place," he said.

Cundy, a member of the BMA's board of science, added: "There are a whole range of sports, which will teach the discipline of boxing without the dangers. We see this introduction to schools as an unhealthy development."

published in the autumn edition of the *Journal of the Physical Education Association (PEA)*. None of its 7,000 members wrote criticising the inclusion of boxing on a school curriculum.

Peter Harrison, the general secretary of the PEA, said:

Schools results and photograph Page 32

Hannah seals Bablake's demise

By ALIX RAMSAY

IT WAS a chill, damp wind that blew through the Midlands finals of the British Aerospace national school-girls hockey championships in Coventry yesterday as Bromsgrove beat Bablake 1-0. Fielding more chapped knees than you could shake a hockey stick at, the 12 finalists met to renew old rivalries and sort out who was to go through to the national finals in March.

The competition between Bromsgrove and Dame Alice Harpur is fierce: last year, Bromsgrove lost on penalties to Dame Alice Harpur in the semi-finals and so had a point to prove.

Meeting in the semi-finals, it was Bromsgrove's turn for revenge, holding the old enemy to a 0-0 draw and then cruising past them 5-1 in the penalty shoot-out.

Meanwhile, Bablake, the home side, were making their way to the final. Coached by Sue Sutton, the England under-18 team manager, they won their group with ease and then overpowered St Paul's 2-1 in the semi-finals.

Bablake's loyalties are split between hockey and netball, so a place in the final was, for Sutton, a sign that they had played up to and beyond their potential in the competition.

Bromsgrove's strength has been built over the past six years. Rather than producing just one team in each age group, the coaching staff — among them Craig Parnham, from Stourport, the national league team — have created large training squads at every level giving them greater strength in depth.

Add to that Nathalie Hannah, from Sutton Coldfield, and Katie O'Riley, both national under-16 players, Jennie Bimson, now in the England under-21 squad and Martina Samwer, an exchange student and member of the German national team, and they are a force to be reckoned with.

In the final, they flexed their muscles, had most of the play, and went through courtesy of a second-half goal from Hannah.

Halcyon days when boxers were just like us

SHORTLY before midnight on Saturday, I was watching the pre-fight antics of a Yemeni-Yorkshire super-bantamweight dressed in trunks of simulated leopardskin. From his appearance in the hall to entering the ring, where his hapless Mexican opponent was doing neck exercises as if his life depended on them, took a full four minutes. He walked and stopped; side-stepped, preened himself, moved this way and that to enable each millimetre of his lissom 8st 10lb frame to be seen by all.

There was a 45-second wait as he stood outside the ring, his ego would he jump, dive, somersault, levitate... nothing less was an option. He was never going to slip between the ropes; he is no ordinary man.

The hyperactive, narcissistic Mr Naseem Hamed, of Sheffield, has so much talent, such charismatic athleticism, speed and strength, that it will be fascinating to see him matched against someone of real quality for a meaningful "world" title.

Armando Castro began by being warned for praying after the bell and spent the next ten minutes pretending that he was not being hit, then pretending that he was not being hit as hard as he was being hit. It was a truculent, unlovely deceitful performance by a boxing has-been who will find it hard to locate further meal tickets... and it made me yearn for the days when boxers were people like the rest of us, only stronger and fitter. I have sympathy for Caesar's preferred option of "having men about me who are not super-bantamweights".

Henry Cooper was like the rest of us, through stronger and fitter and not a bantamweight. In the ring, he wore black trunks, walked straight to his corner, listened to the referee then fought. No hype. Big kisses from his wife, Albina, when he

won and, after the bout, he talked to people: "It was me left hook what his chin bounced off of."

In the fullness of time, I shall try to interview Mr Hamed; that will be different from those times I had with Enery — and not just because of the difference in their weights.

I recall a lunch at a pub in Welling — where he stayed while in training in the days when boxers were advised to preserve their strength by sexual abstinence: before Tyson. Present were Jim

CLEMENT FREUD



Afterthoughts

Wicks — Cooper's 71-year-old manager — the heavy-weight champion and me. "Clay is the big ambition; stands to reason," Enery said. Wicks left the room. "Gone to have a house to let," Enery said. "You know, bet." Two minutes later, he came back. "I done my money."

We had salad and soup, 10oz fillets of plaice followed by 1lb steaks, then cheese and fruit. We drank red Burgundy.

What makes you angry? I asked him. "When I get hit in the goolies" — and when I left he gave me a bag of peaches from his greengrocer's shop. "They eat nice; five for half a crown."

Have you made plans for when you win Saturday's fight? He looked up from lolling super into his coffee: "I'll sell peaches at six for half a crown." He grinned. I never saw Hamed grin.

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by NICK DAWS

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Faculty of Education, UWE Bristol, Redland Campus, Redland Hill, Bristol BS6 6UZ.

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For further information contact: Jenny Lyndon, Course Administrator, Bloomsbury Centre, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas' Street, LONDON SE1 9RT.

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FACULTY OF LAW

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POSTS

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Preferred age range for candidates 30 - 45, with experience of independent boarding schools.

Please send for details to:
The Chairman of the Governors,
Abberley Hall, Worcestershire WR6 6DD
Telephone: Great Witley (01299) 896275
Fax: 01299 896875

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The appointment is from September 1995.

Further details and application forms are available from Carol Atkins, PA to the Head.

Closing date for applications: 7 February 1995.

Queen's School,
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Tel: (01923) 224465 Fax: (01923) 223975

FINANCE DIRECTOR

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Details of the post are available from Mrs Kathleen E Lund, Chief Executive, CTC Trust, 9 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DD. Telephone enquiries, in strictest confidence to the Chief Executive, are welcome on 0171 839 9339.

Closing date for applications: 10th February 1995. It is anticipated that interviews will be held during the week beginning 20th February, in London.

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SALARY: Package based on £30,000 per annum depending on experience and qualifications.

Further details from Headmaster, Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7DU. Telephone (01527) 579679 to whom applications should be sent.

Closing date for applications: Friday February 10.
Charity No 527450

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FACULTY OF LAW

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CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the Headship of Clifton High School, which will become vacant on January 1st 1996, on the retirement of the present Headmistress, Mrs J. D. Walters.

Clifton High School is an independent school with 740 pupils, ranging in age from 3½ to 18. The Junior Department is co-educational, the Senior School is for girls only. The School occupies a central position in the village of Clifton, two miles from Bristol's city centre and with easy access to the M4 and M5.

The School has a strong academic tradition but there is great emphasis on Games, Music, Drama and extra-curricular activities, too. It is also known for its pastoral system, the care given to the individual and its happy atmosphere.

The Governors are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, innovative person, with considerable experience within the educational field and with leadership, management and communications skills.

Further details of the post may be obtained from The Chairman of the Governors, Clifton High School, College Road, Bristol, BS8 3JD. Tel: 0117 973 0201. Fax: 0117 923 8982.

The closing date for applications is 10th February 1995.

Clifton High School is an educational charity. Its Charity No. 211728

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Telephone 0242 225814 for further particulars and send your CV and the names of two work related referees to Susan Dormon, Head of Human Resources, UCAS, Fulton House, Jessop Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3SH to arrive not later than 3 February 1995.

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For an application form and further details please contact Personnel Services, University of East London, Romford Road, London E15 4LZ. Tel: 081 590 7722 ext 4321. Please quote reference number 10/N/95. Closing date for applications: 6th February 1995.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer

UNIVERSITY of EAST LONDON UEL

Barnard Castle School

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Individuals who wish to be considered for this position, or who would like to suggest the names of others to whom the details of this post might be circulated, are invited to write in confidence to Dr P. G. Riviera, Chairman of the Principal Search Committee, Linacre College, Oxford OX1 3JA, from whom further particulars are available. The closing date for applications is 3 March 1995.

Linacre College is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from individuals of either sex and any ethnic origin.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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The College invites applications for the post of Principal in succession to Sir Bryan Cartledge KCMG, who is retiring on 30 September 1995.

Linacre College was established in 1982 as a graduate college of the University for students of all academic disciplines. The College is noted for the research distinction of its fellows and for the wide base of its student body.

The post of Principal is full-time, though as time allows the Principal may also pursue his or her particular academic interests. The post carries a salary within the professional range and other allowances.

Individuals who wish to be considered for this position, or who would like to suggest the names of others to whom the details of this post might be circulated, are invited to write in confidence to Dr P. G. Riviera, Chairman of the Principal Search Committee, Linacre College, Oxford OX1 3JA, from whom further particulars are available. The closing date for applications is 3 March 1995.

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How to work in partnership

Hugh Wright on the role of the independent school and the importance of its place in the education system.

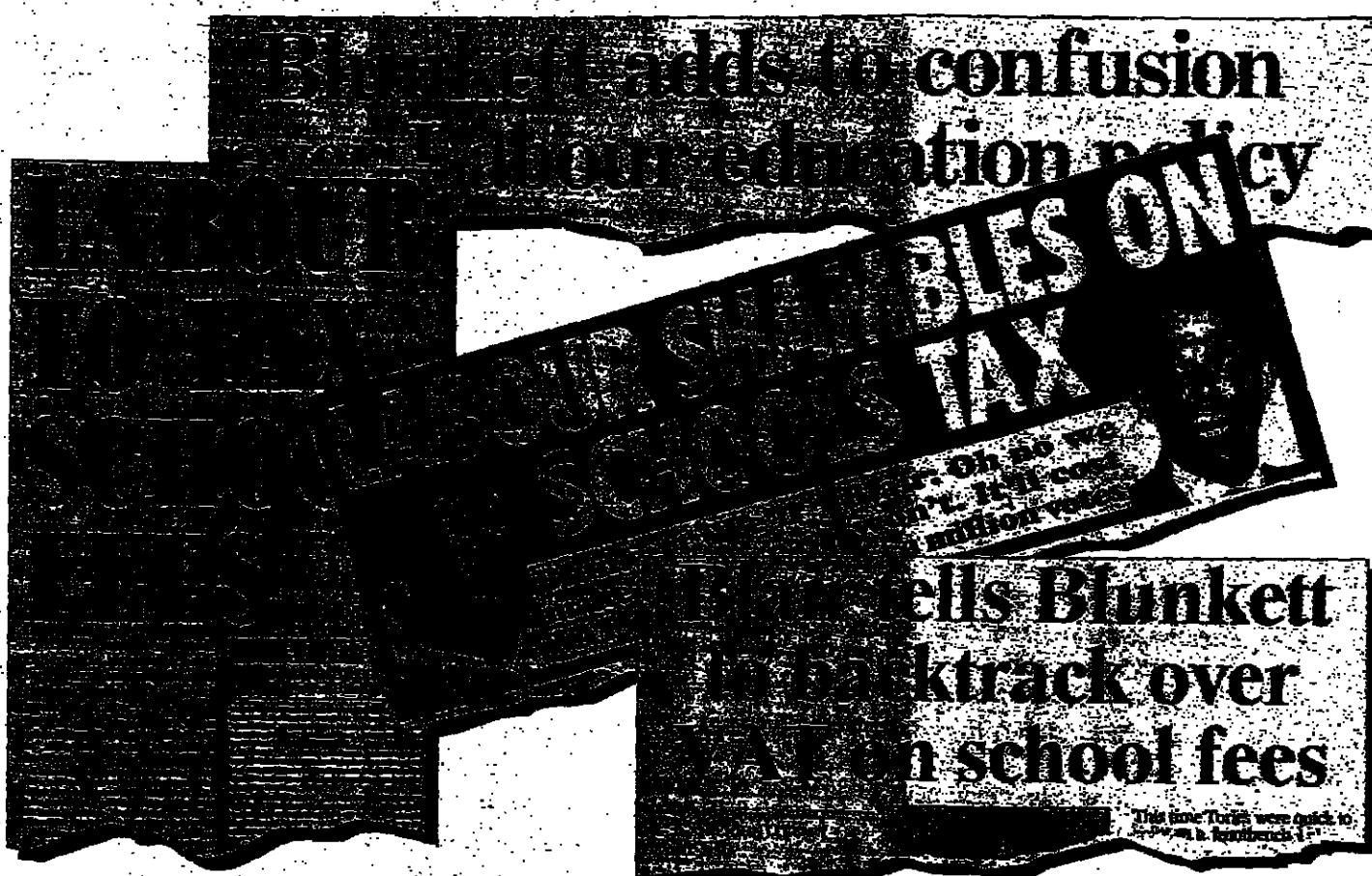
Politicians, like everyone else, must be realistic to survive. This is nowhere more true than in the sphere of education. To be a realist you need to see clearly and not invent facts. You also need to see the overall situation as well as the details. Above all, you must free yourself from prejudice and from a predisposition to impose opinion gained in the past onto what is happening in the present.

What then are the present realities in education? There are certain things that never change. Foremost among these should be standards and then the need for partnership to achieve them. Partnership in families and between families and schools count for most from everything springs. But back to the politicians. They need to respect parents' wishes and the needs of schools to meet them.

Let us consider independent schools. They, too, are an integral part of the educational provision of the country. Judging by the MORI polls, the vast majority of parents of all political persuasions would like them to be available as a choice for their children. Here, too, the need for realism comes in.

Independent schools are now, and always have been, anxious to play their much-needed role alongside other types of schools, of which there are many. Independent schools have a future in this, and an important one, partly because they are independent. They are a part of the national framework, but not answerable in the same way as maintained schools to local and central authority and they derive the majority of their funding from parents. Put simply, they are economical. Independence works because it motivates. The situation in all schools is now very different from what it was. The virtue of independence has been recognised. Local management is, after all, a form of it.

This is why partnerships can be developed; partnerships between government and schools and be-



In the debate over the independent sector, are politicians taking account of the need for government and schools to work together?

tween the schools themselves, both locally and nationally. The associations of heads and teachers are crucial. Relations between the associations of heads have never been stronger. The Secondary Heads' Association has a very broad membership and works closely with the independent schools' associations. Our policies, for example on 14 to 19 education, are saying the much same things.

All of this is very promising for the future. I trust that when Labour and the Liberal Democrats finalise their plans, they will listen to what these partnerships of schools are saying. The early signs are good. A willingness to meet and discuss is there. It is to be hoped that realism will be the order of the day in all these discussions.

The Assisted Places Scheme deserves nothing but praise. It achieves all of the aims set out above, by opening independent schools to the widest possible spectrum of parents. We hope it can be extended so that still more open access will be available to the

independent sector. As I have said, realism means seeing clearly and not inventing facts. Applied to the scheme, that means seeing that it costs the State little or no more to educate the children in the scheme in independent schools than if they were in the maintained sector.

It also means accepting that all parents of children in independent schools have paid through taxation for their children's education once. The fees they pay over that are a saving to the State, which in fact could not afford to educate all of them itself without putting at least £1 billion into the education budget.

Other countries in the European Community have different traditions of partnership with their independent schools; none pay as little to them as we do. This means hard facts have to be faced as to how this present enormous saving to the Treasury can be evaluated and the financial contributions of the independent sector recognised. If it were built into the thinking of the planners of all parties, the sector could be used more widely to

great profit. As I say, let us look at the facts, or the realities of the situation and not pretend the facts are otherwise.

But above all, let us see what we can achieve for the benefit of all. With the demand for education of all kinds increasing and with the numbers of full-time students growing, we all have a part to play.

I trust we can do it together. Places in good schools are always at a premium, never more so than now. Such participation and partnership is nothing new. For example, in Birmingham, as in many other places up and down the country, relationships of long-standing exist and flourish already. Let the Foundation of King Edwards in Birmingham serve as an example. There are many others. Its endowments have been used for more than 400 years to foster education for all sectors of the community often with strong support from the Government, as now. Two of its schools are independent, five grant-

maintained. They work in partnership and friendly rivalry. I act as the headmaster of that Foundation and can witness to the effectiveness of these links.

Prejudice needs to be set aside. It is simply not helpful for anyone to say "going to an independent school is a privilege. If we limit the access to these schools there will be more for everyone else". We all agree, a good school should be a right, not a privilege, and there are many good schools of all kinds. If independent schools in particular do not achieve high standards they do not survive in a very competitive market place. That is one of the things that makes them a safe choice. If they are viewed like that and without political prejudice, they can offer a very wide spectrum of opportunity to a very wide range of children.

These are the facts. I trust politicians of all parties will recognise what can be done, if we work in partnership.

• The author is the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference.

Survival under a socialist government

New era for French schools

For the first time, the French Catholic hierarchy has appointed a layman to run its schools. In the past, the secretary-general of Catholic education has been a priest or bishop. Pierre Daniel is a Marseilles businessman and, more significantly, former head of a powerful parents' association for independent schools.

The Catholic Church is responsible for 95 per cent of all of France's independent schools: one in every six pupils. M Daniel's appointment is a tacit acknowledgement of the small role religion now plays in Catholic schools.

Just ten years ago, as head of UNAPEL (Union nationale des associations de parents d'élèves de l'enseignement libre), M Daniel was a key figure in the fight to prevent President Mitterrand fulfilling his promise to bring independent schools more into line with state ones and creating "a single, lay unified education system".

Traditionally, the conflict over independents has been between their Right-wing champions and the Left but, to the Government's dismay, opposition to the Government's plans came from all sides. Coolly in command of his troops, M Daniel marshalled parents into a million-strong demonstration in Paris which finally brought down the Government.

His lack of a dog collar will not worry parents. Few teachers are ordained nowadays. There is more religion in the average British state school than in those of Catholic France. State schools are not allowed to teach it at all—nor hold assemblies. Catholic schools, all of which are under contract to the state, may give only voluntary classes in religion on the understanding that they do not interfere with the demands of the national curriculum.

Compared with independents in the UK, they are generously subsidised. Teachers' salaries and, in most cases, running costs are paid by the state. The latter also recognises their right to a loosely defined "specific character". Marie-Michele le Bret, spokeswoman for the Catholic Schools, said that this

means that as well as teaching religion and moral values, individual schools may choose to follow the example of perhaps Montessori, Piaget or Freinet.

Opinion polls suggest that parents choose independents because they see them as more caring than state schools, where many teachers believe their responsibility is solely with their pupils' academic ability. Hardly any choose them for religious reasons.

When M Mitterrand ends his mandate in April, he will be leaving behind a flourishing independent sector. Far from crushing it, M Mitterrand has made it stronger and more popular than ever. In the avid public debate over its right to exist which he has

aroused, researchers have highlighted its advantages over state schools.

Gabriel Langouet and Alain Léger, at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, who can't be accused of having an axe to grind for Catholic

schools, say that parents consider independent schools a safe haven when they feel their local state school is not up to scratch or when their child is doing badly.

The research has also shown that working-class children who have been educated entirely in an independent school get better results than those in the state sector. They are very much a minority, despite the fact that French independent schools are far less elitist than British ones. Fees vary enormously. According to Madame Le Bret in rural areas they range from a modest FF180 (about £22) to FF1,200 a year but are much higher in large towns.

Lower-income families are not expected to pay the full amount. In spite of the concessions, most pupils come from middle-class families and ethnic minorities are rare (an attraction for some parents). "We are not as democratic as we would like," Mme le Bret says, "but it's because we have not been able to build schools in the new towns and suburbs where immigrants are concentrated."

MARY FOLLAIN

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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(Ref: 3/3398)

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Salary will be within the Lecturer or Senior Lecturer salary scale (£14,756 - £30,533 per annum), depending on qualifications and experience.

The successful candidates will be expected to contribute to the management and teaching of at least one post experience course and to undertake overseas assignments either as part of a consultancy team assembled by York Health Economics International, or as a subcontractor with partner agencies. Willingness to spend a considerable proportion of working time (up to 20 weeks annually) on overseas assignments is an essential qualification for these appointments.

RESEARCH FELLOWS/SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

(Ref: 3/6564)

Applications are invited for research posts to work in the Centre for Health Economics. Two of the posts are funded by the Department of Health and the Northern-Yorkshire R & D Directorate. Applicants should either have appropriate post graduate qualifications, ideally with some research experience or be researchers in applied economics and applied econometrics who have not previously worked in the health/health care field. Candidates wishing to be considered for secondments are encouraged to apply.

The appointment will be made for 2 to 3 years in the first instance (with rolling review). Salary will be at an appropriate point on the research staff salary scales (£13,941 - £35,076 per annum) depending on qualifications and experience. It is anticipated that at least one appointment will be made in the upper salary range.

Potential candidates are encouraged to discuss their interest in these posts informally with the Centre Director (Professor Alan Maynard: 01904 433645) or the Deputy Director (Ken Wright: 01904 433643).

For further details of the above posts and how to apply, please contact the Personnel Office, University of York, Heslington, YORK, YO1 5DD, quoting the appropriate reference number. Closing date for applications is 3rd February 1995.

THE UNIVERSITY of York



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Development Office Development Executive (Major Gifts)

Academic-related Administrative Grade 5:

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The Development Office, as it moves into a post-Campaign fund raising mode, wishes to appoint a Development Executive to a newly-created post. This officer will report directly to and will act as deputy to the Director of the Development Office. The role will include management responsibility for co-ordinating the work of the solicitation staff within the office. Fund raising (university-wide) or fundraising experience is highly desirable. The job requires tact and sensitivity to the needs and interests of fund raising prospects together with the tenacity to follow through projects through adversity.

Candidates must show an understanding of Oxford University, its mission and its need for external (non-governmental) funding in order to set the work of the Development Office in its proper context. The job requires the ability to manage relatively senior staff within the office. Fund raising (university-wide) or fundraising experience is highly desirable. The job requires tact and sensitivity to the needs and interests of fund raising prospects together with the tenacity to follow through projects through adversity.

Development Executive (Legacy Work)

Academic-related Administrative Grade 2:

Salary £16,191 - £20,953 p.a.

The Development Office, as it moves into a post-Campaign fund raising mode, wishes to appoint a Development Executive to an existing post. The officer will be part of a team of nine solicitation officers, backed by support staff including data base and research teams. She will have responsibility for identifying potential legacies, producing materials in support of the programme, being familiar with the legal and tax technicalities involved in charitable bequests and providing some support for the annual giving section of the team.

Candidates should show an understanding of (or an interest in) learning about Oxford University, how it functions and what its financial needs are. The post demands tact and sensitivity and, therefore, good interpersonal skills. A good deal of field work (possibly abroad) will be involved. The post might suit a relatively recent graduate, ideally (though not necessarily) from Oxford.

Development Executive

Academic-related Administrative Grade 2:

Salary £16,191 - £20,953 p.a.

Oxford University Development Office, as it moves into a post-Campaign fund raising mode, wishes to appoint an additional Development Executive to manage specific fund raising projects. The officer will be part of a team of nine solicitation officers, backed by support staff including data base and research teams. She will have responsibility for working with the academic staff concerned with the projects, and in seeking out and involving potential donors. The work will involve producing material that will help to promote the projects and servicing committees concerned with them.

Candidates should show an understanding of (or an interest in) learning about Oxford University, how it functions and what its financial needs are. The post demands tact and sensitivity and, therefore, good interpersonal skills. A good deal of field work (possibly abroad) will be involved. The following attributes could be useful but are not essential: Oxford University experience, a scientific background, an honours degree.

Further particulars for the above three posts are available from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (Tel. 0855 220005), to whom applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent by 30 January 1995. Interviews will be held during the week of 6th February 1995, and candidates are asked to note that in their diaries.

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Can larger classes be avoided?

The squeeze on education budgets has aroused school governors to fury, reports John O'Leary

Forecasts of thousands of job losses in state schools have become as much a part of the new year as the January sales or shocks in the FA Cup. Education authorities and opposition MPs always insist that this will be the year the chickens come home to roost from previous under-funding.

Every year, it seems, the money is found from somewhere to stave off disaster. Class sizes may rise a little and more teachers take early retirement, but the threatened wave of redundancies does not materialise. So are the politicians crying wolf again in the current budget round?

Certainly, there are differences this year. Pupil numbers are rising and it will be more difficult for schools to make savings to allow for inflation, even at its present low level.

It is also unusual to have the Education Secretary making many of the same points, albeit in the intended privacy of a Cabinet bidding process. Although Gillian Shephard won more money for education after sending the letter leaked to the *Times Educational Supplement* last week, her warnings of job losses and increased class sizes must stand in the light of the eventual settlement.

With pupil numbers increasing by 1.5 per cent and teachers' pay likely to keep pace with inflation, a 1.1 per cent rise in overall education spending must require cuts. Teachers' pay is by far the biggest item on a school budget, and is often the only one that can yield the savings necessary to balance the books.

Many schools have built up contingency reserves to enable them to cope with years such as this. But for the majority, even if early retirements or non-replacements of staff can keep redundancies at bay, the result must be larger classes.

Whatever her own views on the link between class size and the quality of education, Mrs Shephard knows that parents see



Children at Coleham Primary School, Shrewsbury, where governors say they will resign rather than implement a £40,000 cut

this indicator as of paramount importance. Her letter recognised the political significance of an issue which has always been seen as a recruiting standard for independent schools and which is becoming one of the main talking points in areas where budget cuts are being proposed in the state sector.

In Oxfordshire, for example, local government capping has left schools facing a 6.3 per cent budget cut. Joe Hannigan, an Oxford parent who has corresponded with Mrs Shephard about the likely impact on his children's two schools, says: "I think this is a real hot potato for the Government. There are meetings arranged in practically every school I know of because parents are burning with anger."

Martin Roberts, the head teacher of Cherwell School, in Oxford, is having to cope with a cut of £135,000. "The situation is many times worse than anything I have faced in 14 years as a head. I never dreamt that I would be thinking of

making staff redundant, but this does not look like a one-off problem. We will certainly have to have bigger classes and postpone some important projects."

Oxfordshire is in a worse position than most because it dipped into its reserves to cushion school budgets last year. But the National Association of Head Teachers puts the average cut currently proposed by education authorities at 4 per cent, assuming a pay increase for teachers in line with inflation.

Northumberland, for example, is planning a 4.5 per cent cut. Chris Tipler, the county's chief education officer, who tackled Eric Forth, the Education Minister, on the subject at his association's weekend conference, said: "This has come on top of a series of dreadful years, and we cannot shield the schools. People will muddle through because they will just have to cope in the end, but even parts of the country that have been better treated in previous years are feeling the squeeze now."

Norfolk, where Mrs Shephard once chaired the education committee, is one of many authorities whose spending is capped at 0.5 per cent above last year's figure. Although special efforts are being made to protect school budgets, keeping the cut below 2 per cent, the result is 8 per cent cuts in adult education, school meals and the youth and community service, and 12 per cent less for discretionary awards to students.

Only Birmingham is promising to increase school budgets in real terms. Last year, an education commission chaired by Professor Ted Wragg, of Exeter University, was highly critical of the authority's previous spending record. Although a budget is yet to be finalised, Theresa Stewart, the council leader, has assured head teachers that schools will be given the "highest priority".

Elsewhere, however, governors

will be left over the next few weeks to grapple with depressing figures. Some are reacting with fury. Those at Coleham Primary School, in Shrewsbury, have threatened to resign en masse, rather than implement a £40,000 cut. Others in Oxfordshire are planning to set illegal deficit budgets.

Tony Travers, who heads a research centre at the London School of Economics, says it is impossible to estimate the impact of the current settlement because local government funding for education is not earmarked. Teacher numbers have held up through previous spending rounds, but 1995-6 promises to be the "toughest year ever" for schools.

The good news for Mrs Shephard is that few will want to admit the full scale of their problems. Mr Tipler says: "Schools will cover it up because, in the market place, who is going to send their kids to a school which the head says is falling apart?"

Good reasons to read old rhymes

The great British narrative poem is unknown to most schoolchildren

SOME of the most approachable and memorable poems in English are those which tell stories. And the best ones were, on the whole, written some time ago. How lamentable then that today's schoolchildren are exposed to so little fine, traditional narrative poetry.

Every child loves a story, so why on earth are unforgettable poems such as *Hiccup, The Lady of Shalott*, and *The Highwayman* so often ignored in favour of either "poetry" which is banal, smutty (and therefore, unaccountably perceived as being just the thing for children) or just blankly obscure and second rate.

Consider tiny, trivial ditties whose popularity is bound to be passing, such as "Love is white, pants are blue, Love is a pink, nightdress still slightly warm / Love is when you leave at dawn / Love is... (Adrian Henri) or "Down behind the dustbin / I met a dog called Sid / He said he didn't know me / But I'm pretty sure he did" (Michael Rosen). Both are widely anthologised for school use, are known to millions of schoolchildren and are mildly entertaining for a few seconds. Fine to read casually but they don't need to be "taught". They do nothing to stretch and develop knowledge, understanding or vocabulary. They offer no growth potential — only superficial transitory amusement.

Such poems should not be allowed to displace from the curriculum time-honoured delights such as the sensuality of Keats's *Madeline* on the Eve of St Agnes — "And still she slept an azure-lidded sleep / In blanched linen, smooth, and lavender'd"; or the delicious comedy of Cowper's *John Gilpin* trying to carry bottles of wine on a runaway horse: "Down ran the wine into the road / Most piteous to be seen / Which made the

horse's flanks to smoke / As they had basted been."

The rote set in so long ago that, notwithstanding the national curriculum's emphasis on pre-20th century literature, I doubt that there are now many teachers in mainstream schools who know these poems themselves — hence the inevitable recourse to what is easy and "accessible".

Last year the choral society to which I belong tackled a rather nice setting by Parry of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. The music was quite easily mastered but, oh dear, such a fuss about the words. Browning's most famous poem seemed to be completely new to over half the choir. What an indictment on their education.

A local authority inspector recently reprimanded me for teaching Christina Rossetti's *Goblin Market*. It was far too hard for 13-year-olds, he insisted.

My grandmother's education started and finished in a Dorset village school, which she left at 14. Not long before her death at 91 in 1987, triggered by a chance remark, she astonished us by reciting almost the whole of Macaulay's *The Keeping of the Bridge*. She had learnt it at school.

SCHOOL inspectors should remember that poetry, like music, communicates before it is understood. The rhythms and resonances of *The Ancient Mariner* for example, get into your head and lodge unshakably like a catchy tune. Even low-ability groups find Coleridge a delight to recite: "The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, / The furrow followed free".

All the well-known narrative poems should be in the curriculum. Arnold and Longfellow, Tennyson and Coleridge have more educational value in the long term than Roger McGough, Brian Patten and Kit Wright.

VIEWPOINT



Susan Elkin

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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[illegible]

Peso crisis seen as a setback and not a disaster

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE World Bank has said that the Mexican peso crisis, although clearly a setback for the world economy, should not create long-term financial difficulties either for Latin America, or for the developing countries as a whole.

The bank, which last night published its World Debt Tables summarising lending and capital flows to developing countries, said that private capital would continue to be a major source of funding for middle-income developing countries.

Michael Bruno, World Bank chief economist and vice president, development economics, said: "The economic reforms that many developing countries have undertaken in recent years have played an important role in re-establishing their creditworthiness and attract-

ing these large flows of private capital." The bank said that the Mexican experience underlined the danger of relying excessively on short-term flows and said that countries must continue to monitor how their domestic savings and investment rates are evolving and ensure that fiscal and current account balances are sustainable.

In 1994, private capital flows to developing countries totalled \$173 billion, more than four times the 1989 figure of \$41.9 billion. However, this was a much slower rate of increase than in 1993, when flows rose by 55 per cent in a year to reach \$159 billion. The bank said it expected growth in such flows to continue, but at a much slower pace than in the early 1990s when emerging markets, with relatively high interest rates, benefited from very low US interest rates.

Private capital now accounts for three quarters of all long-term flows to developing

countries, compared with 44 per cent in 1990. However, access to private funds has been concentrated in only a score of countries. The bulk of these are middle-income countries in East Asia and Latin America, with only India and China representing the low income category.

The World Bank said that, notwithstanding the slowdown in the growth of flows in 1994 and the subsequent knock in confidence among emerging market investors because of Mexico, it believed that flows would continue. It emphasised that this is primarily because of structural change in many developing economies, the positive effects of which it said would be reinforced as the Gatt agreement is implemented.

The bank noted that more than 40 per cent of private capital flows to developing countries is now accounted for by foreign direct investment.

Net flows have been increasing steadily since the mid-1980s and in 1993 jumped by 42 per cent from 1992 to \$66.6 billion.

In addition, developing countries' share of worldwide foreign direct investment has increased to more than 37 per cent, while flows to industrialised countries have declined. The bank attributed this to the trend towards worldwide production sourcing and marketing strategies by international businesses, as well as "more welcoming trade and investment regimes" in many countries.

Low income countries continue to rely almost exclusively on official flows from governments and lending institutions such as the World Bank. The bank said that there was now a consensus that these countries need an "exit strategy" from repeated debt reschedulings, but would also need new financing on "highly concessional" terms.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's set to fight asbestosis writ

LLOYD'S of London will "vigorously" oppose any writ from the Lloyd's Action Group over an alleged multimillion-pound cover-up on asbestosis claims. A spokesman for the 300-year old insurance market, which is supported by the assets of individual names, said: "We are aware that a writ is being prepared but we are confident that all the letters and material supporting the writ have been in the public domain for a very long time." Tom Benyon, chairman of the Society of Names, said: "Suing the institution of Lloyd's is a futile gesture and generally unhelpful to the many thousands of names who have legitimate claims for negligence against the market. It is a waste of time and scarce resources."

Meanwhile, Lloyd's is also braced for claims arising from the Kobe earthquake in Japan. While claims relating to property damage will be limited, Kobe is a major port and on the marine side they are expected to run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

More homeowners hit

A CITY stockbroker has claimed that a further 200,000 people have fallen the negative equity trap. In the past three months, the number of those whose mortgage debt was greater than the actual value of their property had reached 1.3 million, according to researchers at UBS. With more building societies likely to announce further mortgage rate rises this week, the housing market is likely to suffer a new setback. Falling prices will only serve to escalate the negative equity problem, UBS says. Average house prices declined by 1.7% in the last quarter of 1994.

ICI cheaper power call

ICI, one of Britain's biggest manufacturers and a long-time lobbyist for lower energy prices, wants the electricity industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, to cut the cost of electricity again in the so-called "pool" or free market. ICI claims the price currently paid by industry does not reflect the cheaper power becoming available from the most advanced electricity generating plant now on stream. The company argues that there would be justification for cutting the charges by 15 per cent. Last year the regulator capped prices in the "pool" for two years.

Small business boom

THE number of small businesses in the UK has grown for the first time since 1989, according to a survey by Barclays Bank. During 1994, the number of new businesses starting up reached 446,000. At the same time, there were 422,000 businesses closing down, 13 per cent fewer than the previous year. This meant a net gain of 24,000. David Lavarak, the bank's head of small business services, said: "The small business sector experienced a strong recovery through 1994. The recovery was widespread, with jobless numbers falling in every region of the UK."

Gardner Merchant sold

GARDNER MERCHANT, the contract caterer, signed a deal over the weekend to link up with Sodexo, the catering group listed on the French stock market, to create a worldwide combine with an annual turnover of £2.5 billion and employing 110,000 people in 60 countries. Sodexo will buy 100 per cent of Gardner Merchant's share capital for £543 million in cash, and take on £173 million of the company's debt. Gardner Merchant will continue to trade separately. Sodexo will finance the deal by issuing £1.1 billion of new equity and taking on some £122 billion in borrowing.

Dogfight goes to Lords

KUWAIT AIRWAYS' final attempt to win damages of nearly \$500 million against Iraq Airways over Baghdad's seizure of aircraft during the Gulf War reaches its climax today in the House of Lords. Lawyers for Kuwait Airways are scheduled to present their case that Iraq Airways cannot hide behind sovereign immunity to escape liability for using the seized aircraft. The appeal concerns ten of 15 Kuwait Airways' planes that Iraqi Airways flew out of Kuwait after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Banking overview

THE British Bankers' Association has set up a new advisory committee to identify issues that concern members with international private banking interests. Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said the committee will be looking into regulatory changes that affect domestic, European and overseas private banks. This "fits in with our interest of promoting London as a financial centre," he said. The new advisory committee is headed by George Alford, head of private banking at Kleinwort Benson.

Electrical retailers to renew OFT battle

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE big electrical retailers such as Dixons and Comet are to intensify their campaign to the Office of Fair Trading against the retail businesses of the regional electricity companies, which they accuse of unfair competition, once a new head of the OFT arrives in May.

The move comes after a disappointing Christmas trading statement from Comet, part of the Kingfisher retailing combine, which last week warned the market that it would slip into the red in the current financial year.

The retailers are incensed at what they claim are unfair cross-subsidies between the enormously profitable core businesses of the electricity companies and their mainly loss-making retail operations.

Dixons and the other big chains have already been rebuffed at the OFT, when the outgoing Director-General, Sir Bryan Carsberg, found in November 1993 that the electricity industry had no case to answer. But they are deter-

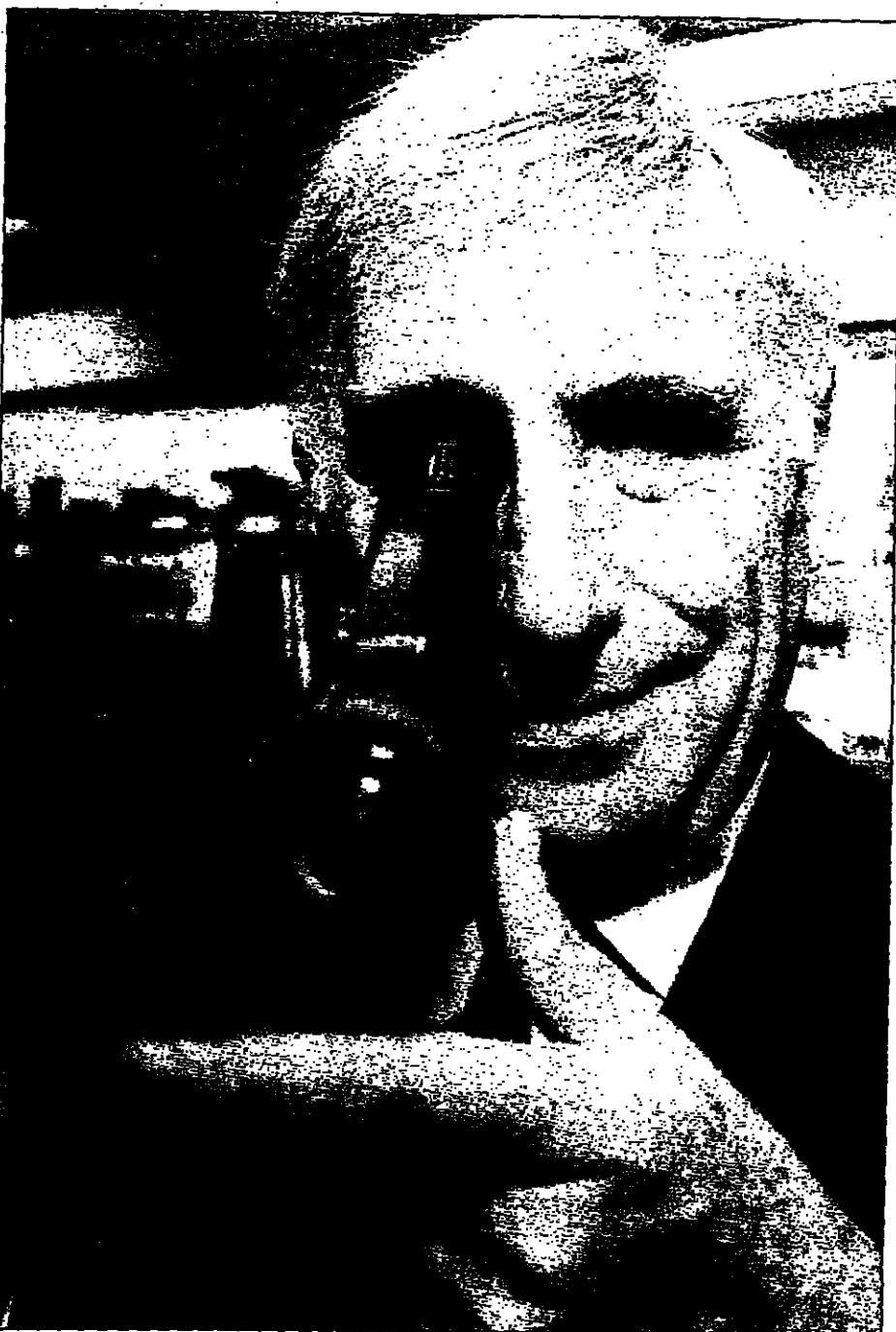
mined, in the light of their Christmas trading experience, to renew the fight. They are thought to be awaiting Sir Bryan's replacement, as well as the electricity industry's latest set of full-year figures at about the same time, which are expected to show further widespread losses.

The retailers hope for a more sympathetic response from the new director-general, especially if Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, were to get the job. He backed them in 1993.

Stanley Kalms, the Dixons chairman, has claimed that the power industry had lost £250 million on its retail businesses since it was privatised in 1990. He said at the time of Dixons' interim figures earlier this month that most of the industry's shops were making huge losses.

The electricity companies themselves have always denied cross-subsidising, saying that their trading subsidiaries are entirely free-standing and are operated as independent businesses.

But the big retailers claim many of the businesses would by now be in the hands of the receivers were they not part of larger groups. Their own analyses are thought to suggest that the retail operations of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales lost £5.5 million between them by the September half-way stage of their financial year, only a slight improvement on the £7.4 million lost at the same stage of the previous financial year. Kingfisher has firmly denied a weekend report that Comet's losses have prompted the group to put the business up for sale. Nigel Whittaker, a Kingfisher director, said the report was "totally unjustified". He added: "Comet is not for sale." The group is not talking down reports of impending board changes.



Stanley Kalms, of Dixons, is focusing his hopes on a new head of the OFT

Labour attacks pension details

By ROBERT MILLER

DONALD DEWAR, the Shadow Spokesman for Social Security, is to call for company pension fund members to account for half of the membership of boards of trustees instead of the present proposal, contained in the Pensions Bill, of a third.

Mr Dewar will speak at a conference in London tomorrow on pension law reform to coincide with the second reading of the Pensions Bill in the House of Lords. Mr Dewar yesterday said the Government had taken advantage of the small print in the Bill, which has some 140 clauses and is one of the longest and most complex Bills in recent times, to "manipulate" many recommendations set out in the Code report on pensions reform.

The Bill will generate a fierce debate on all sides of the pensions industry. Among key issues will be the role of the new pensions regulator, the future of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps), and in particular the abolition of the Guaranteed Minimum Pension, the minimum solvency requirements and the funding of the compensation scheme.

The Fawcett Society, whose members include Age Concern and the Equal Opportunities Commission, will argue that the proposal to equalise the state pension age at 65 "only exacerbates the disadvantaged position in which women find themselves".

Letters, page 19

Viacom sells cable arm for \$2.3bn

By SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

VIACOM, the American entertainment conglomerate, is to sell its cable television systems for \$2.3 billion to a partnership that includes a subsidiary of Tele-Communications, the top American cable operator.

The company, which owns Paramount Communications, the Blockbuster video retail chain, the publisher Simon and Schuster, and the MTV network among other busi-

nesses, had been planning to sell the cable operation for some time. It acquired a huge debt when its colourful chairman, Summer Redstone, clinched the Paramount deal last year for \$9.6 billion.

To help to pay off the debt, Viacom has already sold Madison Square Garden, the New York landmark, for \$1.1 billion, and it plans to dispose of other assets. The \$2.3 billion price for the cable systems will

be mostly cash, although Viacom said up to \$600 million may be paid in securities. The company expects a tax advantage under a US government programme to support racial minority ownership of communications outlets.

Because the partnership is headed by a company wholly owned by Frank Washington, a black entrepreneur, Viacom can defer some capital gains taxes from the sale. The

Republicans, who hold majorities in Congress and the Senate, have threatened to abolish the pro-minority rules, but Viacom said it considers the tax benefits to be an integral part of the agreement to sell.

Viacom has about 1.1 million cable customers in Seattle, San Francisco and other areas. The deal will have to be approved by the American regulatory authorities.

Full time as Celtic seeks City result

By MARTIN BARROW



Premier asset: Paul McStay, the Scottish international

FOOTBALL'S uneasy relationship with the City will be further put to the test this week when a share offer by Celtic, the Scottish Premier League club, draws to a close.

The club hopes to raise up to £8.9 million through the share issue to fund the construction of a new stadium and acquire new players. The shares will trade on a matched-bid basis under the Stock Exchange's rule 4.2.

The offer closes tomorrow and the club, which bullishly promotes it as a chance to own "a piece of paradise", says it has had inquiries from more than 7,000 potential investors, with interest among expatriates as far off as South Africa, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand and the Middle East. Players are also encouraged to invest, and one, John Col-

lins, has helped to publicise the offer as the club appeals to its supporters for help. Mr Collins said: "It's a good thing to do and something I can hand on to my children. It's also just nice to know that you've got a small part of the club which is, I'm sure, the way everyone will feel."

Up to a point, Celtic is turning to its supporters and a wider public after years of boardroom strife and mismanagement that left the club on the verge of bankruptcy. Unable to call upon a wealthy benefactor in the style of Jack Walker of Blackburn Rovers, who is estimated to have spent £54 million on his club without yet landing a major trophy, the club is effectively passing round the hat to ensure its long-term survival. Celtic, which dominated

Scottish soccer in the 1970s, has not won a major trophy since 1969. With attendances falling away sharply, losses have been incurred in each of the past three years, totalling more than £4.3 million. The club is effectively homeless, having temporarily abandoned Celtic Park in Glasgow because it did not meet conditions set out by the Taylor Report. Redevelopment of the stadium has started but a total of £29.6 million will be needed to see the project completed.

Although harmony apparently reigns in the boardroom under Fergus McCann, who emerged victorious from a power struggle to become chairman and managing director, Celtic's problems off the pitch are far from over. With a number of legal actions outstanding,

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5902 (+0.0209)
German mark
2.3991 (-0.0059)
Exchange index
79.8 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2280.9 (-64.9)
FT-SE 100
2995.0 (-53.3)
New York Dow Jones
3869.43 (-38.03)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
18840.22 (-490.95)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.17	2.00
Austria Sch	16.08	15.88
Belgium Fr	52.76	48.46
Canada \$	2.857	2.197
Cyprus Cyp£	0.780	0.725
Denmark Kr	10.06	9.28
Finland Mk	8.01	7.35
France Fr	8.75	8.10
Germany Dm	2.98	2.35
Greece Dr	367.00	372.00
Hong Kong \$	12.88	11.88
Ireland P£	1.08	0.98
Italy Lit	268.00	248.00
Japan Yen	171.00	155.00
Malta	0.825	0.768
Netherlands Gld	2.20	2.10
Norway Kr	11.10	10.30
Portugal Esc	200.00	242.00
Spain Ptas	166.00	152.00
Sweden Kr	212.00	203.00
Switzerland Fr	12.38	11.58
Turkey Lira	2.15	1.95
USA \$	1.880	1.850

Rates for small denominations (notes only) are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading on Friday.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 44

SKIJORING

(a) A winter sport in which a skier is pulled over the snow by a horse or horses (or by a motorised vehicle). From the Norwegian *ski* + *hjøring* driving. "Skating, sliding, cutting and jodeling in the intervals of skiing, skijoring, skilacking and skihandling."

TRIKINI

(b) Any of various designs of ladies' swimsuit which consist of three main areas of fabric (a pants and as a separate covering for each breast). Derived humorously from *pikini*. "Some ingenious fellow has just come up with a trikini, best described as a handkerchief and two small saucers. The saucers, say the manufacturers, stick on with Velcro, the stuff which fastens at a touch."

STAMMBAUM

(c) A family tree of languages in linguistics, from the German for a family tree, this sense being introduced by A. Schleicher in 1863. "One of the classic unresolved dichotomies of historical linguistics is the opposition of the stammbaum and wave theories of linguistic differentiation."

TUKAL

(a) A beehive-shaped hut with a thatched roof found in Ethiopia and adjacent parts of Africa. The Ethiopian name, also *tukul* and *tukl*. Evelyn Waugh, *Waugh in Abyssinia*, 1936: "The office was a small, lightless tukal a hundred yards or so off the road."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qe1 wins, e.g. 1... Re6 (1... Qd8 2 Re7! forces mate) 2 d5 Nxd3 3 dxc6 and White wins easily on material.

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Stephen Volk's tale of revenge may not have contained much in the way of new twists, but helped by some fine performances — particularly from Derrick O'Connor as the psychopathic Jack Rudkin — it proved diverting enough. Except, of course, in the Lewis household.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Once Upon A Time ... Life. An animated exploration of the human body (t) (8836304)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (70217)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (t) (14526)
- 9.30 Schools: Geography Start Here (8771217) 9.45
Telethon: The Great American Telethon Two
Scenes (59101052) 10.20 Places and People
(5219472) 10.40 The English Programme
(2669491) 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica
(7367401) 11.15 The Music Show (1070520) 11.30
Rap-a-Tap-Tat (8461410) 11.45 Junior Technology
(9046565)
- 12.00 Right to Reply (t) (Teletext) (s) (84782)
- 12.30 School: Continuing your learning series.
The guest is Brandon Marshe (78101) 1.30 Little
Miss followed by Paddington, Frootie Tootles
and The Wombles (t) (s) (42897)
- 2.00 Pete Smith Specialities. A double bill - *Weather
Wizards* and *That's His Story* (76761439)
- 2.15 FILM: Ring of Spies (1963, b/w) starring Bernard
Lee and William Sylvester. Espionage drama about
a man working in a secret Royal Navy experimental
department who is recruited into a spy network.
Directed by Robert Tronson. (Teletext) (570782)
- 3.55 The 3,000 Mile Garden (t) (Teletext) (3933148)
- 4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (526)
- 5.00 The Golden Girls. Dorothy and Sophia visit
Disneyland (t) (Teletext) (7014)
- 5.30 Nurses. Comedy series set in a Miami hospital (t)
(Teletext) (s) (878)
- 5.50 The Cosby Show. Domestic comedy series (t)
(Teletext) (491)
- 6.30 Hangin' With Mr Cooper. American college
comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (743)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (953062)
- 7.50 The Slot. The first of three consecutive videos on
real privatisation (455878)
- 8.00 Little Killers: A Short Hectic Life. A documentary
about the water shrew, one of the world's most
aggressive mammals. (Teletext) (s) (66228)
- 8.30 Only When I Laugh. Classic hospital comedy
starring James Gandy, Peter Jones, Christopher
Strain and Richard Wilson. (t) (Teletext) (59383)



Baldwin, Goodyear and Briggs (7.30pm)

7.30 **Coronation Street**, Bet (Julie Goodey) intervenes when Ken (Mike Baldwin) and Mike (Johnny Briggs) come to blows over the furniture at number one. (Teletext) (385)

8.00 **Lucy Numbers** with Shane Ritchie (5656)

8.30 **World in Action**. (Teletext) (3) (7491)

9.00 **FILM: F02 - The Deadly Art of Illusion** starring Bryan Brown, Brian Dennehy and Rachel Tocolin. A former special effects man helps a detective to catch a peeping Tom, but things go horribly wrong when the detective is killed, so he enlists the help of a friend to help him to catch the killer. Directed by Richard Franklin. (Teletext) (6) (8659)

9.00 **News at Ten** (Teletext) and weather (74679)

9.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (367101)

9.40 **FILM: F02 - The Deadly Art of Illusion** (continued) (378052)

1.40 **The Equalizer** (689101)

2.40am **Emilие League Extra** (9479296)

1.25 **Spot AM** (210908)

1.25 **Quiz Night**. Public participation (1633231)

2.50 **FILM: Doctor In Distress** (1963) starring Dirk Bogarde and James Robertson Justice. There is cause for alarm when the usually hostile surgeon Sir Lancelot Spratt suddenly becomes kindly and considerate. Directed by Ralph Thomas (51347)

4.30 **Chrysta's Style Guide** (3) (6) (18176326)

4.55 **The Time ... The Place** (3) (213816)

5.30 **ITN Morning News** (41724). Ends at 6.00

Lambton's scheme of things D stands for Dorset's estate. Tendentiously, perhaps, she spends the entire programme in Bournemouth, which has been part of Dorset's only since 1974. She does not even go beyond the building. This is the Victorian pile of a rich man, the home of Russell-Cox and his wife, and his. Both were local celebrities. She was known as the Queen of Bournemouth. They were married for 61 years and died within nine months of each other. Less than a year after her death, Dorset's estate was sold, estimated that she used to be a Bournemouth notables. She was a very successful and a touch eccentric, a fortune teller money and flamboyance. As the Russell-Coxes requested, she handles their photograph album with white gloves.

SATELLITE

[illegible]

6.00/Jan Sesame Street (3494946) 0.55
Gordon (3629145) 7.25 Eek! Eek! Cat
(3752528) 7.58 Pigglet (5127171) 8.25
Super Mario Bros (3303341) 8.45 Cat
Paw (3600000) 8.50 10000000000
10.00 The Crocodile Time (30025) 11.60
Christopher Crocodile (59461) 12.00 Gar
field (16507) 12.50gale Sam Cat (25743)
12.50gale The Cat (36077) 1.00 Super
Mario Bros (3513741) 1.45 Super Mario
(3118737) 2.00 Bumper (3533) 2.20 Bumper
(1893900) 2.20 Coney (1210363) 3.15 What's
Wife (16169) 3.25 Sonic (51430) 4.15
Hedge (16700) 4.45 The Cat (3549) 4.50
Pigglet (3120)

NICKELODEON

7.00pm Nickelode! (174052) 7.15 Pee-
Wee's Playhouse (703033) 7.45 Rugrats
(702034) 8.15 Doug (16169) 8.45
The Cat (36077) 9.15 Super Mario
(3513741) 9.45 Super Mario (3118737)
10.20pm The Muppet Show (00877) 1.00
Gatesy High School (00870) 1.30 Banana
Man (36077) 1.55 Super Mario (3513741)

6.00/Jan Sesame Street (3494946) 0.55
Gordon (3629145) 7.25 Eek! Eek! Cat
(3752528) 7.58 Pigglet (5127171) 8.25
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Wife (16169) 3.25 Sonic (51430) 4.15
Hedge (16700) 4.45 The Cat (3549) 4.50
Pigglet (3120)

FAMILY CH

5.00pm Children
Milkshake (21
(40527) 7.00 Two
Darts (1111)


DISCOVERY


4.00pm The Global Game: habitats for
owls (7237232) 3.00 Earthlife (7235007)
5.00p Children's Dreams (7235253) 6.00
p.m. The Great Big Book of Now (7235254)
(2000085) 7.30 Future Ques (7234235) 8.00
Space Age (7236554) 9.00 Science for the
Stupid (7236530) 10.00 Cosmos (7235017)
11.00 Special Force (7232595) 11.30-
12.00 Topex World Dance (7232304)

MTV

5.00pm Awake to the
Grind (7235255) 6.00
p.m. The Grind (7235255)
Wildside (7231225)
11.00 Soul 2 Soul
(42252) 1.00pm
2.30 Rap (7235255)
(7230245) 4.00pm

Dense comforts her children in Libya (5.00pm)

8.00  **Cutting Edge: Growing Apart.** (Teletext) (s) 9101

10.00  **NYPD Blue.** The return of the New York police drama. (Teletext) (s) (959504)

10.55 **Film: Uccellacci e Uccellini (1966)** starring Totò, Nino Di Angelo and Rossini di Rocca. Pier Paolo Pasolini's first comedy about two innocents retracing the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi accompanied by a philosophical talking bird. In Italian with English subtitles (18959149)

12.35am **Eye 2 Eye.** Design quiz chaired by Steve Taylor (r) (9525250)

1.05 **Film: Gangway (1937, b/w)** starring Jessie Matthews. Vintage comedy musical about a newspaper reporter suspected of being a notorious jewel thief. Directed by Sonnie Hale (869453). Ends at 2.45

1 (4786014) 4.30 Dual (2878) 5.00 Hi Lit UK
(994302) 7.00 Greatest Hits (942361) 8.00
Simple Minds: The Hits (942361) 9.00 The
Real World 3 (41856) 9.30 Beavis and
Head (47963) 10.00 Report (465578) 10.15
CrashTest (473033) 10.30 News (103865)
1845 3 Item 1 (151120) 11.00 The End?
(362591) 1.00am Soul (57057) 2.00 The Grid
(78321) 2.30 Night Vision (804298)

Twilight Zone (9380056)
 Revenge of the Nerds
 comedy with Robert

7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage
 (40612923) 9.00am Cat (8402365) 12.00 The
 Bridge (25034) 3.00pm 1.10pm Ten of the Best
 (4013676) 2.30 Heart and Soul (782647)
 3.30 Into the Music (4516859) 6.00 Prime
 Cuts (898666) 7.00 VH-1 (436003) 8.00
 Adult Album Chart (436003) 10.00 The
 Bridge (9582959) 11.20 VH-1 1.1 (8225356)
 12.00 The Nigritty (2226022) 2.00am Ten of
 the Best (5585067) 3.00-7.00 Down Patrol
 (7457163)

2226656) 7.00 Living
 8.00 Rosemary Conley
 (404743) 9.00
 (7457011) 9.00
 10.00 9.00 New You See It

Country music from Sam to Top, including 5.00 Saturday Nite Dance Ranch 6.00-7.00 Big Top

TV ASIA

6.00am Persian Dawn (44812) 7.00 Asian Morning (78453) 8.30 Builtback (80007) 9.00 Peleatara FM, Watian (141568) 12.00 Gher (31304) 1.00pm Hindi Film: Star 6516(2) 2.00 News, Nusatana (77162)

Mouse (7684) 5.30
8) 6.25 As Cued Up
Pursuit (7728) 7.30 My
100 Road to Avonlea
Robbery (77014) 10.00

Tk (1526) 6.00 TVA and You (2659) 6.30
Buryhead (6436) 7.00 Drama: Babe Jane
and Sons (7072) 7.30 Des Perdes (5282)
8.00 News Bulletin (3472) 8.30 Mano Va Na
Mano (2507) 9.00 Hindi RUM: Soliab
(151694) 12.00 Asian Morning (36637)
1.30am Sight and Sound (998326)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continues cartoons from Sun to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

Giant Gnat (74868) 1.20m
 Swamp Bog Brother Jig
 Mouse (71144) 1.30
 9.7g 2.80m Blacklighting
 bat (47444) 4.00 Rhoda
 Brother Jigs (96537)

Wildebeest (97085) 6.50
 7.60 Aveike on the
 12.0 V/L Igno (69743)
 12.18 Grasser
 1.20m Abdomen Mt (77472)
 1.91 3.45 Cnemidactylus
 (475849) 4.15 3 m

7.00pm Deep In My Heart (1954)
 2000000! 8.50 Interrupted Mayday
 5.50 Bump off chair
 Lencina (905952) 11.25 Rose Marie
 (1954); A Canadian girl is torn between a
 trapper and a Mountie With Howard Keel
 and Ann Byrd (9256732) 1.35Am The
 Merry Widow (1952) Ruth Lana Turner
 serves the tiny circus as a prostitute from
 Venezuela (1506182) 2.30-5.00 Married
 an Angel (1942) (9253750)

CNN/CVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and CVC is the home shopping channel.

30 Minutes (7827435) 8.30 Travel Guide —
Island Week Special (8172520) 8.00 Get
away (7290255) 9.30 Discover Your World
(8851743) 10.00 Trystide (2728101) 10.30
American Vacation (7828472) 11.30-12.00
California Gold (8221168)

9.00am Crawshaw's Watercolour Studio (7117217) 9.30 Madeleine Cooks (2572743)
10.00 Diving on Diddy (4207720) 10.30

(52022588) 11.30 Frontiers (2032033) 12.00
Who Cares Wins (7120781) 12.30pm A
Choice for K'Ala (2583855) 1.00 Madeline
Cooks (7276781) 1.30 Crawshaw's Water-

Haps (685588) 2.50 The Sick Kids
(7303743) 3.00 How Does Your Garden
Grow? (7135138) 3.50-4.00 Green Pages
(7315588)

7.00pm Give Us a Cue (7265166) 7.30
Neighbours (7265575) 8.00 Sons and
Daughters (7129052) 8.30 EastEnders

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1990; 263: 1025-1028.

Heseltine stalls on financial changes at Post Office

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is refusing to agree a new financial framework for the Post Office after the failure of its attempt to privatise the corporation, according to a leaked letter from Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade.

But in spite of this stance, Post Office leaders are putting specific new proposals to ministers for moves to give the corporation greater commercial freedom within the public sector. Post Office managers believe that the Government's refusal to set a new framework for the corporation will consign its finances, performance and competitiveness to decline.

Mr Heseltine will be pressed to clarify the Post Office's future when he is questioned this week by MPs on the Commons' all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee. But in advance of the hearing, Mr Heseltine's clear intent to take no steps to frame a new government relationship for the Post Office, even though he and other ministers insisted that the Post Office's current position could not be maintained, is indicated in a letter sent to the committee.

In the letter, Mr Heseltine maintains that, despite the failure of the Government's attempt to privatise the Post Office, "we continue to believe that option is the appropriate way forward". Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has also made clear the Conservatives' intention to try again to privatise the Post Office if they can win a sufficient parliamentary majority to guarantee it.

In the light of the Government's belief, Mr Heseltine then says "there is no specific reassessment under way" for the Post Office. Some Post Office managers will take this as directly contrary to the Government's statement at the time the planned privatisation was abandoned that ministers would now consider the options for the future of the Post Office.

In a move clearly designed to dash the hopes of those urging the Government to set a new framework for the corporation, Mr Heseltine says: "I have no plans for any policy statement, at least in the near future." He then says only that "my department's relationship with the Post Office continues". This will disappoint senior managers, who have been pressing ministers for a decision on the future of the corporation. As part of that, the new proposals the Post Office has put to the Government will be revealed this week when Mike Heron, chairman, and Bill Cockburn, chief executive, also appear before the select committee.

The proposals, which *The Times* can reveal today, make clear the determination of senior Post Office managers to create an "enterprise culture" in the Post Office, in which the Royal Mail is primarily an international company, though one with a "strong" domestic base. Post Office leaders will declare the need for a change of culture that will mean the Post Office continuing to meet its public service commitments, but in a way that leaves it free to develop the "market discipline and forward-looking commercial behaviour of the best in the private sector". As the central element of that approach, Post Office managers will announce that they have put to ministers six specific measures that should be immediately introduced. These include a new financial regime, agreed guidelines for new commercial development and lifting of tight capital spending restrictions.

Heseltine stamp, page 42

Cadbury set to buy rest of Dr Pepper

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

CADBURY SCHWEPES, the confectionery combine, will today confirm the achievement of a long-standing corporate aim, an agreed bid in outline to buy the three-quarters of Dr Pepper, the American soft drinks business, that Cadbury does not already own.

The Stock Exchange is expected to demand an announcement from Cadbury on its plans for Dr Pepper, and any required cash-raising after a sharp rise in Dr Pepper shares on Wall Street late last week.

The share price rise was triggered by a report in *Business Week* magazine suggesting that John Albers, chief executive of Dr Pepper, has come to an informal, tentative agreement with Dominic Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes. The report quoted an unnamed New York investment banker.

Wall Street analysts estimated Dr Pepper shares are worth up to \$35, the magazine added, and this is the price that the British group is expected to pay. As a result, the shares were up to just short of \$30 on the New York Stock Exchange on Friday.

Sources close to Cadbury Schweppes refused to comment on the reports. But further weekend press speculation makes a formal statement from the company inevitable this morning.

Cadbury has made no secret in the past of its desire to buy the remaining 74 per cent of Dr Pepper it does not own. An outright purchase of Dr Pepper would put the group in third place in the \$48 billion US soft drinks market. Only Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Co, and established world market leaders, are larger, while Dr Pepper itself is not in the fiercely competitive cola market, which has been damaged by own-label competition. Cadbury's ambitions have been consistently thwarted by opposition from Mr Albers. But he is now approaching retirement age and is thought, reports suggest, to have given his blessing after highly confidential talks over the past few months.

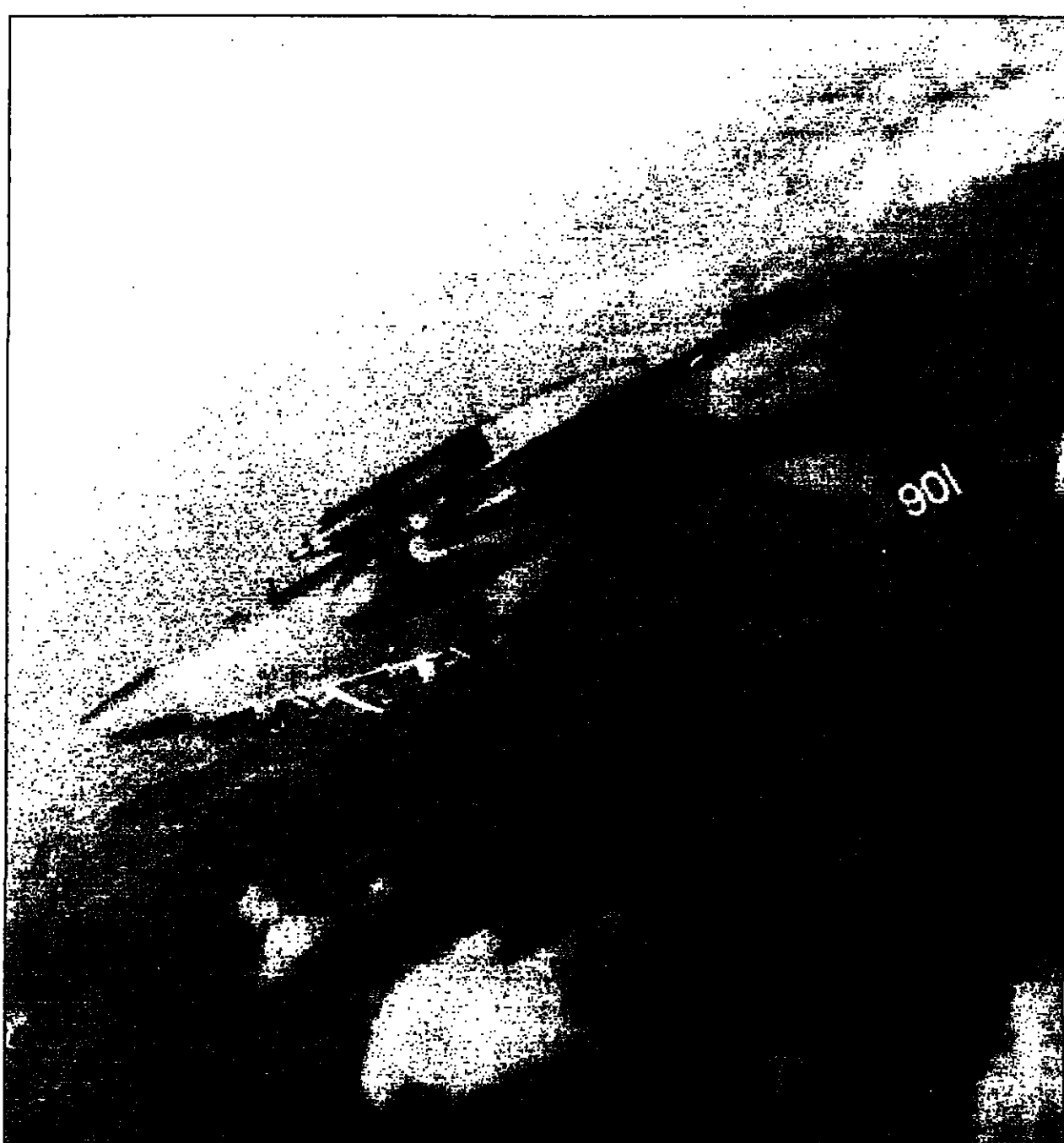
Given Cadbury's existing stake, the cost of buying the rest of Dr Pepper is expected to be little more than £1.1 billion. The group has indicated in the past that a purchase worth as much as £500 million could easily be funded from internal resources.

The expectation, therefore, is that Cadbury will this morning put its shareholders on alert for a rights issue of perhaps £400 million to pay for the rest of the acquisition.

Cadbury's first stake in Dr Pepper, based in Dallas, Texas, was acquired in 1986. A merger between Dr Pepper and Seven-Up two years later left Cadbury with little more than 5 per cent of the equity, but a daring share purchase in 1993 raised the holding to its current level.

That purchase was widely tipped to be followed by a deal to buy the whole group. However, the British group's room to manoeuvre was limited by its refusal to countenance a hostile bid. For its part, Dr Pepper refused Cadbury a seat on its main board, the normal consequence of a friendly stake of this size, instead cutting off dividend payments as a "poison pill" defence.

Business Week has also speculated that Cadbury could choose to sell off immediately Dr Pepper's Seven-Up business, with Triarc, owner of Royal Crown Cola, named as potential buyer.



MORE British Aerospace Hawk jet aircraft are likely to be heading for Indonesia (Ross Tieman writes). The purchase of an additional 20 Hawks from British Aerospace is planned in a deal potentially worth £400 million, the third big order for the aircraft from that country over the past decade.

Twenty BAE Hawk jets bound for Indonesia

News of the deal comes as BAE nears agreement with Aérospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy about the formation of a joint venture to handle sales and support of regional aircraft. A formal announcement could come as early as this week.

The Hawk advanced trainer/combat aircraft are Indonesia's £676 million procurement budget for the fiscal year 1996-1997, according to a report in the publication *Flight International*. Some 24 aircraft ordered in June 1993 under a £450 million contract are now being delivered from BAE's assembly line at Warton in Lancashire, adding to 20 bought a decade ago. The repeat contract could provide about a year's work for Hawk facilities at Warton and Brough, Humberside.

Tax threat to break Grid float deadlock

By MARTIN WALLER

THE GOVERNMENT is threatening to push through a savage windfall tax on the owners of the National Grid, the 12 regional electricity companies, if they cannot agree on the £4 billion-plus flotation of the Grid this summer.

The Treasury is believed to be increasingly concerned at the delays to the float and the apparent impossibility of persuading all 12 companies to reach unanimity over their plans for the Grid. Most have accepted that the

shares in the Grid will simply be handed over to their shareholders in line with the latter's existing holdings. That would represent an immediate windfall for hundreds of thousands of small investors who bought into the companies when they were privatised in 1990.

However, there is still disarray over the corresponding benefits that will have to be offered to the customer. Before Christmas the industry was largely agreed that a payment of £20 a household, at a cost of just short of

£500 million, would be sufficient, although consumer groups were aiming for as much as £50.

Part of the rationale of the initial settlement, to compensate for the higher VAT that the consumers were facing on their bills, was kicked away by the Government's defeat in the House of Commons over VAT on fuel bills after the November Budget. Several companies have therefore suggested that the hand-out could be reduced to just £10. Those close to the negotiations point to Eastern, the

biggest of the 12, Southern and Yorkshire, as the most clearly out of line. "There's a fair bit of brinkmanship going on," said one observer.

The Treasury is anxious for the float to go ahead because of the tax that would eventually fall due on the gain, although the precise tax implications of the Grid hand-out have yet to be finalised. Morgan Stanley, the American merchant bank that is one of the Government's advisers, is producing a report on options for the float to go to the Treasury by the start of next month.

Maxwell pension funds set deadline

By ROBERT MILLER

TRUSTEES of the four main Maxwell pension funds have set a mid-February deadline for a "realistic" settlement with a number of leading City investment houses over the £400 million of pension money stolen by the late Robert Maxwell.

If the talks fail, the trustees, who have a legal duty to secure the best deal on behalf of tens of thousands of pensioners, will put the matter in the hands of the courts.

Patrick Harrex, the Law Debenture trustee who represents 5,000 members of the Maxwell Communication Pension plan, said last night: "The hoped-for global settlement which was being negotiated with various institutions at the end of last year by Sir Peter Webster (the former High Court judge) did not materialise. We want to avoid expensive legal action. But we cannot have this uncertainty hanging over members of the pension schemes much longer so we have set the early deadline. If we have to go to court we expect to win."

The last-ditch attempt to resolve the dispute with City investment houses is being led by Sir John Cuckney, the former chairman of Westland.

On Friday, Mirror Group Pension scheme and the Maxwell Communication Works scheme were given the go-ahead by a New York court to sue Goldman Sachs, the investment bank. The funds allege breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, fraud and conversion and conspiracy. Goldman Sachs had argued that there were no grounds for the case.

Half of top firms fail to obey code

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

FEWER than half of Britain's top 190 companies fully comply with the Cadbury Code of Practice and two in five still have directors on controversial three-year rolling contracts, according to a report published today.

Pensions Investment Research Consultants (PIRC), a firm of shareholder advisers to client funds with assets of £50 billion, says that although the Cadbury code on corporate governance has had a dramatic impact on improving standards of behaviour, many issues still need to be addressed.

The report says 53 per cent of the companies do not fully comply with the Cadbury code in key areas such as the composition of the audit committee, lack of independence among the non-executive directors, the separation of powers between the chairman and chief executive, the composition of the remuneration committee and pay disclosure requirements.

On directors' contracts, the report says that 40 per cent have three-year rolling contracts for one or more directors. Seven directors had service contracts longer than three years.

A separate survey on executive pay, by Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the benefits consultant, claims that in 1994 the largest rises went to board directors, whose salary increases went up from an average of 6.1 per cent in 1993 to 6.7 per cent. The survey says that the average board director now earns nearly twice as much as a department manager.

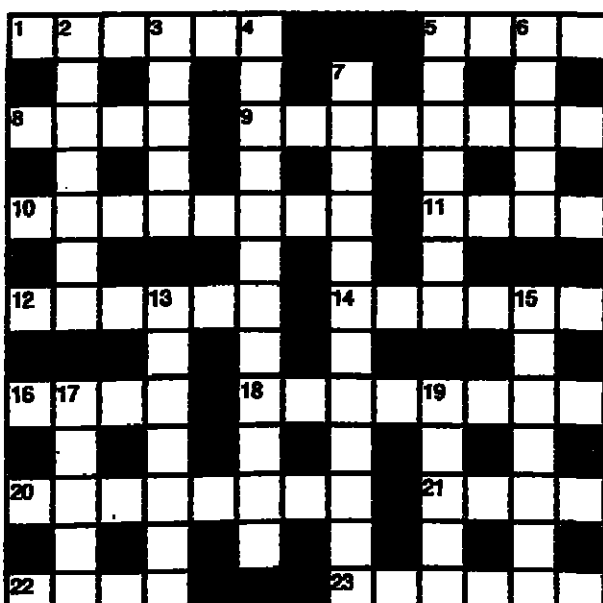
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No 376

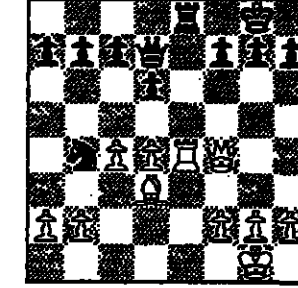
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Flushed; busy and disorganised (6) | 2 With precision (7) |
| 5 Keep; except (4) | 3 Old tax of a tenth (5) |
| 8 Lack; need (4) | 4 Traditional teaching method (5,3,4) |
| 9 Briskness (8) | 5 Sultry Mediterranean wind (7) |
| 10 Nude exhibitionist (8) | 6 Elector (5) |
| 11 Rudely brief (4) | 7 Tiny distance, margin (5,7) |
| 12 Word-joining dash (6) | 13 Earth/sky intersection (7) |
| 14 Eat leaves; flick through books (6) | 15 Hang; temporarily interrupt (7) |
| 16 Light-skinned; reasonable (4) | 17 Concur (5) |
| 18 Learned disquisition (8) | 19 Passage for full orchestra (5) |
| 20 Fretted; streaked with grey (8) | |
| 21 Abound (4) | |
| 22 Lode (4) | |
| 23 Coiffure (6) | |

SOLUTION TO NO 375
ACROSS: 1 Dupes 7 Inhuman 8 Aligned 9 Shallow 11 Nasaur 13 Egotistic 15 Filippino 19 Gnomish 21 Rapport 23 In place 24 Proceed 25 Yokel
DOWN: 1 Drain 2 Priest 3 Sundae 4 Kids 5 Qualms 6 Caloric 10 Hot dog 12 Uglier 14 Rivalry 16 Impact 17 Snappy 18 Embark 20 Creel 22 Tidy

WORLD OF CHESS

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nunn - Plaskett, London 1986. In this innocuous looking position, White found a neat move which won the game instantly. Can you see what he played?



Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 8

By Philip Howard

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SKUJING | STAMMBAUM |
| a. Horse skiing | a. A type of sausage |
| b. Icelandic aperitif | b. A flowering shrub |
| c. The Swedish shadow cabinet | c. A family of languages |
| TRIKINI | TUKAL |
| a. An Italian conjurer | a. A beehive hut |
| b. Bathing suit | b. University beads at Bristol |
| c. Equation to the power of three | c. Consciousness-raising drug |

Answers on page 41

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 NEW Book 7 £4.50 each. The Times Junior Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99), The Times Crosswords: (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords: (Book 1 £4.99), Books 10, 11 & NEW Book 12 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Concise Books 12, 13 & NEW Book 14 £4.50 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers - Price £14.95 each - plus The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6. The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Adams Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.